Foreign Broadcast Information Service
50
ANNIVERSARY
1941 - 1991

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-91-232
Tuesday
3 December 1991

Daily Report
East Asia

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Thai Minister: Economic Powers Undermine GATT

BK2911014991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 Nov 91 p 28

[Text] The Uruguay Round GATT talks might fail and the multilateral trading system might lose its relevance because the economic superpowers were trying to take the law into their own hands, Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on said yesterday.

In a keynote speech at the 41st meeting of the ASEAN-Chamber of Commerce and Industry Council (ASEAN-CCI) in Bangkok, Mr Amaret said nations which were geographically close would form regional trade groups.

He said forming new economic blocs would promote trade and economic relations among members and strengthen their negotiating position with outsiders.

This was already happening in North America, Latin America, Europe, Australasia and within ASEAN itself.

Mr Amaret said the formation of regional free trade areas could be consistent with the GATT provisions and, at the same time, support the multilateral trading system if it was done under conditions that did not create more barriers to trade with third parties.

Turning to the subject of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), Mr Amaret said the decision of the ASEAN Economic Ministers meeting in Kuala Lumpur in October to accept AFTA as the ASEAN regional grouping would be submitted to the ASEAN Summit Meeting in Singapore next January.

Mr Amaret said the idea of a free trade area for ASEAN had been floated for years, but this was the first time its formation was officially endorsed at such a high level.

The officials were now working to ensure the proposal would be adopted at the Singapore Summit Meeting and be ready for implemention at least in some sectors.

The choice of sectors was crucial to the success of the project in the long-run.

Under the proposal, tariffs for most products traded in ASEAN, except for primary farm products and capital goods, would be reduced to a range of 0-5 percent within 15 years.

The modality for the reduction would be based on the Common Effective Preferential Tariff on a sectorial basis. Non-tariff measures would also be eliminated for these products.

Mr Amaret said the formation of AFTA would create a market of 320 million people with a per capita income of US$1,100 in 1990. The size and purchasing power of the market was expected to increase substantially by the time the AFTA was completed.

A single market would provide invaluable advantages over individual ASEAN markets in terms of trade and investment opportunities, he said.

The private sector stood to gain immensely from this exercise. It was, therefore, the private sector's duty to support ASEAN governments in this endeavour.

"If we fail to launch an ambitious yet realistic work programme for AFTA at the next summit, ASEAN may well be the laughing-stock of the world, and its ability to become a relevant force in the international trading community will be severely impaired," Mr Amaret said.

ASEAN-Korea Business Council Formally Begins

SK2911103091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0941 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Bangkok, Nov. 29 (OANA-YONHAP)—The ASEAN-Korea Business Council (AKBC) was formally inaugurated in a session held here Friday with leaders of the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and the ASEAN Chamber of Commerce attending.

Kim Sang-ha, president of the KCCI, warned in his opening speech that regional trade blocs like the European Community and North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) were sprouting all over the world.

The Korean-side chairman said this trend required closer economic cooperation among Asian countries than at any time in the past and that AKBC would have an important role to play in regional economic development.

"ASEAN member countries are leading the 21st Century Pacific Era by achieving six to seven percent economic growth every year in spite of a global economic slump," Kim said.

AKBC will contribute to the world economy and improvement of economic cooperation between Korea and ASEAN, he said.

Teerajitt Sthirotawong [name as received], co-chairman of the ASEAN section of AKBC, welcomed the initiation of AKBC, saying solidified Korea-ASEAN economic cooperation would be a powerful engine in leading the Asia-Pacific era.

The council will convene a general meeting and an executive council meeting every other year, or annually if necessary, and to discuss a wide range of economic matters of common concern in trade, investment, technological cooperation and financing fields.

AKBC is the seventh economic consultative body with which ASEAN formed its ties bilaterally following the United States, Japan, Australia, EC, New Zealand and Canada.

Joint Chamber of Commerce Established

BK0212070491 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] The six ASEAN states and Korea have set up the ASEAN-Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the 41st ASEAN CCI [Chamber of Commerce and Industry] meeting at the Shangri-la Hotel in Bangkok.

The Republic of Korea has maintained trade and investment ties with all six ASEAN countries for many years. Now, it has expressed keen interest to intensify trade exchanges and investment in the region.

Technology transfer is also an area of cooperation to be pursued by both sides. The Republic of Korea hopes that liberalization of ASEAN markets along the line of AFTA [ASEAN Free Trade Area] will be beneficial to international trade and investment in general. Korean businessmen are also ready to explore the region.

ASEAN countries have also accepted an invitation from the Republic of Korea to participate in a major trade show in that country in 1993. The trade show will be a good opportunity to introduce products from ASEAN countries as a group, and for ASEAN businessmen to meet their counterparts to expand trade and investment ties both ways.

Japan

Spokesman: Pearl Harbor Attack 'Violated' Law

OW0312134891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1338 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Japan "definitely" violated international law when it launched a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

Taizo Watanabe said, "There was definitely a violation of procedures of law relating to the opening of the war at the time of the so-called surprise attack on Pearl Harbor."

Watanabe told foreign correspondents the government is still continuing the search for documents which would "prove for good who was to blame" for the delay in Japan's declaration of war.

The declaration was delivered to the U.S. State Department by Japanese diplomats in Washington just after the attack December 8 (December 7 Hawaii Time), 1941.

"Since not all the papers are ready and available, the final responsibility may not be clear but the fact still remains there was a violation of law," he said.

Watanabe said that was confirmed in Japan's 1951 acceptance in the San Francisco Peace Treaty of the guilty verdict earlier handed down by the International Military Tribunal for the Far East.

Libya Urged To Cooperate in Pan Am Investigation

OW0312070991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0614 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Japan wants Libya to "cooperate fully" in the U.S. and British investigation of its alleged complicity in the 1988 bombing of a Pan American jumbo jet, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Taizo Watanabe told foreign correspondents that Libya's ambassador to Japan was summoned to the ministry earlier in the day and said Japan "is absolutely opposed to terrorism of any kind."

Foreign Ministry sources said Libya's top envoy in Tokyo, Muftah Naili [name, title as received], was summoned to the ministry earlier in the day and told to convey the messages to his home government.

The United States and Britain have charged Libya with complicity in the downing of Pan American Flight 103 over the Scottish town of Lockerbie, which resulted in the deaths of 270 people, including a 26-year-old Japanese man.

Watanabe said the U.S. and Britain have informed Japan of their indictment of two Libyan nationals, "related to the Libyan government" and that they have demanded that Libya extradite them, disclose information, and pay compensation.

"Japan strongly calls on the government of Libya to cooperate fully in the investigation," Watanabe said.

"If this incident is revealed to be a result of terrorist activities, Japan would denounce such activities strongly," he said.

Watanabe did not announce any measures against Libya, but explained that measures taken in the past are still standing.

He was referring primarily to an advisory to Japanese companies in 1986 not to undermine the effects of U.S. sanctions imposed on Libya that year following its implication in terrorist incidents at the Rome and Vienna airports at the end of 1985.

Since that time, Japan has not imported any Libyan oil and has not held high-level talks with Tripoli.

Foreign Ministry sources have said there is little further Japan can do in the way of future sanctions against Libya, as its economic leverage over that country is extremely limited.

Japan's exports to Libya in 1990 totaled some 137 million dollars, while its imports, mostly food products, totaled a mere 1 million dollars.

Japanese officials are not commenting on what Japan's position would be if the U.S. undertakes a military strike against Libya, as it did in April 1986.

At that time Japan said merely that it was watching the situation, that it had been informed by the U.S. the move was undertaken in self-defense, and that it was hoping the situation would not escalate.

Former Premier Nakasone Leaves for U.S. Trip

OW0312044091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0412 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone departed Tuesday for the United States where he will meet with Zbigniew Brzezinski, former presidential security adviser, for a panel discussion on Japan-U.S. postwar relations.

In the panel discussion hosted by the Asia Society, Nakasone will discuss prospects for Japan-U.S. relations with Brzezinski.

Nakasone is also scheduled to attend a luncheon hosted by the Council on Foreign Relations in New York on Wednesday.

The former prime minister recently called for Japan to make a more clear-cut statement of contrition regarding its involvement in World War II.

Nakasone is scheduled to return home Thursday.

Lower House Passes UN Peacekeeping Bill

OW0312061591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0604 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—The House of Representatives passed a bill Tuesday empowering Japan to send its military abroad on limited United Nations peacekeeping missions. The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and second biggest opposition party Komeito supported the controversial bill.

The bill goes from the powerful lower house to the House of Councillors, where opposition parties have vowed to do their utmost to scrap it.

Under the bill, Tokyo could dispatch up to 2,000 Self-Defense Forces troops and some civilians in response to a U.N. request for such a deployment. But in case of a ceasefire breakdown, a provision mandates the withdrawal of Japanese troops, to conform with Japan's war-renouncing Constitution.

The LDP earlier forced the bill through a lower house committee, over the objections of the Social Democratic Party, the biggest opposition group and Japanese Communist Party. The LDP holds a majority of lower house seats, but needs the cooperation of at least one centrist opposition party to pass legislation in the upper house.

A military deployment under the bill would mark the first deployment of Japanese Ground Self-Defense Forces troops abroad in almost a half of a century, since Japan surrendered to U.S.-led allied forces in 1945, ending the era of Japan's military adventurism.

SDF Officers React Cautiously

OW0312133591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1247 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Japan's military officers reacted in a subdued manner Tuesday to news that the House of Representatives passed a bill that would permit the overseas dispatch of Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to join in U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Asked to comment, Adm. Makoto Sakuma, chairman of the SDF's Joint Staff Council, said, "We need strong support from the Japanese people to implement our duties abroad."

Gen. Atsushi Shima, chief of staff of the Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF), said, "I think legislators in the lower house should have approved the bill only after gaining much more understanding from the people."

The bill now moves on to the House of Councillors from the lower house, where the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and second-largest opposition party Komeito joined hands to pass it.

Under the bill, the government can dispatch up to 2,000 SDF troops in response to a U.N. request for such help. However, in the case of a ceasefire breakdown, a provision mandates the withdrawal of Japanese troops, to maintain conformity with Japan's war-renouncing constitution, which bans the country from using force to settle international disputes.

Some SDF officers referred to the possible dispatch of a contingent to Cambodia to help in U.N. peacekeeping operations there, saying they are worried about lingering Cambodian sentiment toward the Japanese Imperial Army, which inflicted much suffering on Asian people during World War II.

One top GSDF officer expressed concern that the bill severely restricts the use of weapons. Speaking on condition of anonymity, the officer said the SDF will be unable to take appropriate action in peacekeeping operations abroad under such conditions.

Meanwhile, the Defense Agency is already preparing to adapt its own training program for a future overseas dispatch of SDF troops.

Agency officials said they plan to send about 20 SDF officers to peacekeeping operations training centers in four Scandinavian countries.

The agency also plans to improve its current training programs by increasing the stress on the duties, functions, and history of U.N. peacekeeping operations.

The officials said it will take at least one year to complete the training, adding Japan would be able to send its first troops abroad for peacekeeping operations in 1993.

Watanabe Cautious on Ukraine Independence Vote

OW0312042591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0405 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe took a cautious stance Tuesday on recognizing the Ukraine after its overwhelming vote for independence.

In a statement released after a regular cabinet meeting, Watanabe said he "accepts seriously" that the Ukrainians' desire for the republic's independence was expressed through democratic procedures.

Voters in the Ukraine overwhelmingly endorsed independence in Sunday's referendum. They also voted in Leonid Kravchuk, former chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, as the Ukraine's first popularly elected president.

Watanabe said he would closely monitor future developments and consult with other major countries to deal with Japan's diplomatic recognition of Ukraine.

Japan does not have "to be in a hurry" on diplomatic recognition and is not in a position to take action first, Watanabe said. He added there would be trouble if hasty decisions were made that could not be changed later.

Watanabe expressed concern over the Ukraine's management of nuclear weapons, saying he hopes the Ukraine will pay due consideration to the issue from the viewpoint of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

Nuclear weapons in the Soviet Union should be under "unitary and rigid" management and that should be the case even if the Ukraine becomes completely independent, he said.

Watanabe also expressed hope that the Ukraine will adhere to a "correct direction" of democratization, including rule by law and respect for basic human rights, as well as shifting to a market-oriented economy.

In a related move, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato told reporters that Japan will "accept seriously" the results of the Ukrainian elections but that it will closely monitor future developments before extending diplomatic recognition.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Taizo Watanabe later told foreign correspondents that in view of the Ukraine's large share of the soviet union's population and Gross National Product (GNP), "if they decide to go on the road for independence, its implication is very serious."

"We are watching and monitoring the situation very carefully," he said.

Watanabe mentioned in particular the relation between Ukrainian independence and the issue of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, as well as "the prospect of (achieving a) market economy."

"Those are the things we would like to know for sure—what all the parties concered are thinking about," he said. "Our position (on recognition) will be made clear in public after all those details are known and confirmed to us."

Watanabe later told Japanese reporters that Japan's cautious position on the issue of recognition for the Ukraine is not unsimilar to that taken by the European Community (EC).

He contrasted the Japanese and EC stances with the more forthcoming stances of the United States and Canada, which he noted both have substantial numbers of ethnic Ukrainians among their populace.

Watanabe said that Deputy Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito would be discussing the Ukrainian issue in some detail when he visits Ottawa and Washington for political talks between December 3 and 6.

Finance Minister Dismisses Concerns

OW0312034891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0307 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata on Tuesday dismissed concerns that the Ukrainian independence decision could have an effect on the recent debt relief agreement between the Soviet Union and the world's major industrial nations.

Hata told a news conference after a regular cabinet meeting that the Ukrainian move will have no immediate impact on the Group of Seven (G-7) countries' decision allowing the Soviets to defer payments on part of its foreign debt and to provide new loans to the Soviets backed by the nation's gold reserves.

The people of the Ukrainian Republic voted overwhelmingly for independence in a national referendum held Sunday.

Hata pointed out that the Soviet republic did not join the agreement in the first place, and that the Soviet central government is still negotiating with the republic's government over possible participation in the debt relief accord.

The virtual declaration of independence by the republic will not hamper the negotiations, Hata said.

Hata also said the government will watch stock market trends closely following Monday when the benchmark Nikkei average closing figure fell to a three-month low.

Further on Visit by Chinese Vice Premier

Discusses Arms Export Register

OW0312052291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0454 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa asked Chinese Vice Premier Tian Jiyun on Tuesday to support a United Nations resolution to establish a register of conventional weapons exports, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Tian was noncommittal, but said China would strictly adhere to the resolution should it be approved by the General Assembly, the official said.

Tian, the first Chinese leader to meet Miyazawa since he assumed the premiership a month ago, said that the resolution must be "fair and balanced," and noted that the United States and the Soviet Union are the world's leading arms exporters.

China was among the eight countries that abstained when the proposal to establish a register system for conventional weapons trade was passed by a 106-1 vote at a U.N. committee in November.

The resolution, proposed by Japan and the European Community, is expected to be passed by the General Assembly this month.

China is the third-largest arms exporter to developing nations, and has recently stirred concern in the U.S. over alleged exports of missiles to Syria and Pakistan.

In the hourlong meeting at Miyazawa's official residence, Tian said that U.S. Secretary of State James

Baker's visit last month had been an important step in improving bilateral relations, the official said.

He said the two countries need each other, and have complementary economies due to China's large labor force and U.S. investment capabilities.

Tian made the comment after Miyazawa expressed hope for improved relations between the two countries.

The Chinese Vice Premier also confirmed that China intends to join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty at an early date, the official said.

Tian, whose portfolio includes external economic affairs and agriculture, asked Miyazawa for new funds for agricultural development, in addition to loans earmarked under the 810 billion yen loan package planned for 1990-1995.

Miyazawa suggested the funds could also be considered under the five-year loan program, and said the matter should be addressed in working-level talks.

Tian delivered a letter from Premier Li Peng inviting Miyazawa to visit China next year on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of restoration of bilateral relations.

He also reiterated an invitation for Emperor Akihito to make a state visit during the year, which is expected to be marked by high- level exchanges and other commemorative activities.

Tian is to meet with other top cabinet ministers and business leaders, and visit Osaka, and Kyushu, the westernmost of Japan's four main islands, before winding up his 10-day visit on December 11.

He is here at the invitation of the Foreign Ministry and the Japan-China Association on Economy and Trade.

Seeks Agricultural Loan

OW0312130191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1240 GMT 03 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—China asked Japan Tuesday to provide additional aid to help strengthen the country's agricultural sector, government officials said.

The officials said the request was made by Chinese Vice Premier Tian Jiyun in a series of meetings with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata and Kozo Watanabe, minister of international trade and industry.

Hata told Tian the Finance Ministry will study the request but that it may be difficult for Japan to comply, the officials said.

The Chinese request was in addition to an 810 billion yen aid package Japan has pledged to China over the 1990-95 period, the officials said.

Tian told Japanese ministers the money would be used to boost agricultural productivity, improve stock, as well as consolidate farm produce storage and distribution facilities, they said.

Beijing needs low-interest loans from Japan to develop its agriculture, China's principal industry, Tian was quoted as telling Hata.

Tian made a similar request to Miyazawa, the officials said.

Miyazawa said the matter should be addressed in working-level talks between the two countries, according to the officials.

Trade minister watanabe told Tian that Japan hopes to further develop bilateral economic cooperation, the officials said.

They said Watanabe emphasized that Beijing should give due consideration to protecting the environment when promoting industrial development with funds provided by Japan.

Official Relays Concern Over Burmese Dissident

OW0312131191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1253 GMT 03 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Japan has reiterated its concern to the Myanmar [Burma] military government over its continued detention of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and refusal to respect the results of the May 1990 general elections, Foreign Ministry officials said Tuesday.

Officials said Koji Kakizawa, parliamentary vice foreign minister, also called for improved human rights in Myanmar in a meeting with Thein Han, the country's ambassador to Japan, who was summoned to the ministry.

Kakizawa was quoted as saying Japan wants the military junta to allow Aung San Suu Kyi to leave Myanmar to attend a ceremony in Oslo to accept her Nobel Peace Prize, which is scheduled for December 10.

He said Japan would also like to see assurances she would be allowed to return to Myanmar, according to officials.

Japan, Kakizawa said, wants the junta to take greater heed of the international community's strong concerns about Myanmar.

He said concern is reflected in the widespread interest in the case of Aung San Suu Kyi and a Swedish-proposed U.N. Resolution on her situation and criticizing the "grave human rights situation" and lack of democratization in Myanmar.

The officials said Thein Han responded it is his personal understanding Aung San Suu Kyi is free to leave Myanmar, though whether or not she can return can only be answered by higher authorities.

The Myanmar government is well aware of the international concern about his country, the envoy said.

But he said each country has its own unique circumstances and the Myanmar government bases its policies on that realization.

Kakizawa reportedly told the envoy the Japanese Government does not mean to interfere in Myanmar's internal affairs.

But some Japanese, he said, cannot help but feel concerned over the fact a year and a half has passed since the opposition won the general elections, without any concrete progress toward a transfer of power.

Myanmar should take "concrete measures" to that end to regain international confidence, he said.

The ministry officials denied any link between the summoning of the envoy and recent overtures concerning Myanmar made to Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe by a group of concerned Diet members.

Satsuki Eda, secretary general of the nonpartisan Amnesty Parliamentary League, in a meeting with Watanabe on Friday called for Japan to suspend its official development assistance to Myanmar to protest the junta's continued detention of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Watanabe was quoted as telling eda Japan will do what it can to help resolve the issue but ruled out a suspension of assistance, saying it is "basically humanitarian aid" which is involved.

Meanwhile, a senior ministry official said Tuesday Japan will not take up Myanmar as a priority issue, if at all, in talks next week between Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun.

Farm Minister Stresses Rejection of Rice Tariffs

OW0312124491 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Masami Tanabu, the minister of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, has again stressed the government's basic policy of rejecting any proposals on tariffs at the GATT Uruguay Round of agricultural negotiations that would lead to the opening up of the Japanese rice market. Minister Tanabu made the remarks at a meeting of the upper house Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Committee today.

At the committee meeting this afternoon, Komeito member Juji Inokuma said that if Japan persists in absolutely rejecting concessions on the rice issue, the negotiation will be rendered impossible. He then pressed the government to make some sort of concession on the issue of opening up Japan's rice market for the success of the Uruguay Round.

In reply, Minister Tanabu said that a resolution has been adopted by the upper house calling for complete domestic self-sufficiency in rice and that this resolution should be respected. If rice imports are liberalized, he said, not only rice farmers, but the rural economy, including rice-related industries, would be severely damaged. Therefore, he said, it is impossible to accept tariffication of rice. Thus, he again stressed the government's basic policy of rejecting tariffs to the last.

At the committee's earlier meeting in the morning, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Motoji Kondo discussed prospects for future negotiations, and said it is very difficult to tell whether the agricultural negotiations will go smoothly. GATT Director General Dunkel, he said, wants to call a conference at the vice ministerial level on 5 December and hopes to reach an agreement in outline by 20 December. Minister Kondo said, however, that the start of the vice minister's conference is likely to be delayed a little. He said it is not yet clear whether the negotiations will lead to an agreement in outline by the end of this year.

LDP Leader Calls for Rice Tariffs in 5 Years

OW0312114191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1136 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Senior Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] member Toshio Yamaguchi said Tuesday Japan should agree to change its virtual ban on rice imports to a tariff in about five years.

During the interim, the government should partially open the rice market, allowing imports of about 10 percent of Japan's annual rice consumption, said Yamaguchi, who heads a ruling party economic affairs group.

In a lecture at a Tokyo hotel, he said farmers could use the five years to prepare for liberalization of the rice market.

Finance Minister on Increasing Consumption Tax

OW0312043691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0355 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata refused Tuesday to rule out the possibility of seeking an increase in the 3 percent consumption tax in order to cover an anticipated tax revenue shortfall.

Hata, replying to a questioner in a House of Councillors Finance Committee meeting, said he could not promise that there would be no tax hike during his term as finance minister.

He said his office would not seek an "easy" solution by increasing the tax, but he added that a decision on how to deal with the revenue shortfall would have to be made in consideration of economic trends.

Informed sources said Hata's statement suggested that the government will consider raising the consumption tax to deal with an expected large revenue shortfall.

Hata also told the committee that he saw no need for the ministry to take measures to stimulate the economy, which he said has firm undertones.

Business Leader Opposes 'Any' Tax Increase

OW0312083391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0823 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Masaru Hayamu, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), said Tuesday he is opposed to any increase in taxes to cover an expected revenue shortfall in fiscal 1992.

The leader of one of the nation's four major business groups said at a press conference that the government should cut spending to cover 6 trillion yen in reduced tax revenues forecast for fiscal 1992, which begins next April.

"If spending cuts do not wipe out a revenue shortfall, (the government) should issue deficit-financing bonds. I oppose tax hikes," said Hayami, a staunch advocate of fiscal austerity.

Hayami also advised the government to review its tax revenue allocation system for municipalities to counter a revenue shortfall.

The business leader was referring to state tax revenues granted to local governments, which account for roughly one-fourth of overall spending under the national general-account budget, making them the largest single general-account spending category.

At present, 32 percent of revenues from income, corporate and liquor taxes are allocated to local goverments.

In a related movement, Rokuro Ishikawa, president of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, denounced the government for a reported plan to extend temporary tax increases to make up for an expected revenue shortfall.

Ishikawa called unreasonable the Finance Ministry plan to retain extra corporate and oil taxes beyond next April 1.

The government introduced the special tax earlier this year to raise funds for Japan's 9 billion dollar contribution to U.S.-led multilateral forces in the Persian Gulf war.

Ishikawa also demanded the ministry live up to a pledge it made when the consumption tax on automobiles was introduced in April 1989 to lower it to 3 percent from 6 percent. The ministry is reportedly planning to keep the tax at 6 percent beyond next April 1.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), and Masaru Hayami, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), have already raised objections to the government's extension of temporary taxes.

White Paper Sees Fund Shortage in World Economy

OW0312013591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0057 GMT 3 Dec 91

Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—The world economy is slowly recovering in general but faces a massive fund shortage in coming years, according to a government white paper on the global economy released Tuesday.

The report also noted an accelerating world trend of strengthened economic relationships among neighboring countries or areas and said that such ties must not become exclusive economic blocs.

The Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks should be concluded successfully to minimize that risk the paper said. The round held under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) is approaching a self-imposed deadline in a few weeks.

The 1991 White Paper on the World Economy, issued by the Economic Planning Agency, said there will be a growing fund demand in the world in coming years. Money is needed in developed nations on the way to economic recovery, and in the reconstruction of unified Germany and war-damaged Middle East, as well as in the former East Bloc countries struggling with economic reforms.

The fund shortage could amount to 103 billion dollars in 1992, and 92 billion dollars in 1993, the report estimated. The fund shortage means developing countries are seeing funds flow away from them to the industrialized countries.

The figures do not include the potential demand in the Soviet Union and East European countries because it is now difficult to make an accurate estimation for fund demands in these nations, though they face difficulties in raising funds in international financial markets, it said.

To cope with the shortage, the report had three recommendations.

The priority is to boost savings, especially in developed nations which hold about 80 percent of world savings. In addition to promoting private savings, developed nations should reduce fiscal deficits by cutting expenditures in areas such as defense which are less important with the end of the cold war.

Second, to use the boosted savings effectively, developed nations should improve their financial and capital market functions. Developing nations, on their part, should improve the investment environment to attract investment from developed countries.

Third, in places where high risks deter private investment, official funds should be used to lure private funds, the white paper said.

If the world fails to cope with the fund shortage, there will be upward pressure on interest rates around the world, making it difficult for less creditworthy developing nations to raise funds, and increasing the burden of countries already struggling with massive debts, the paper said.

The paper diagnosed that the world economy is generally headed toward recovery.

Among developed nations, economic recovery in the United States particularly is slower due to "negative legacies" from the long economic expansion in the 1980s such as accumulated debt in the public, household, and business sectors, the report said.

The German economy was significantly affected by reunification, but the country has maintained a high savings ratio and has increased taxes to contain its budget deficit. Once it completes reconstruction, the country's economy will gain strength, it said.

In Asia, while the Japanese economy has somewhat lost its steam, newly industrializing economies (NIEs), such as South Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong, and member countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) maintain brisk economic growth thanks to active foreign investment in their countries.

The paper discussed the accelerating worldwide trend of forming regional economic zones such as the North American Free Trade Area which was proposed in June among the U.S., Mexico, and Canada, and the European Community's market integration in 1992.

The paper also notes the so-called subregional economic zones in the western Pacific, which includes the south China economic zone, the growth triangle of Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia, the Japan Sea economic zones, and the Indochina economic zone.

It said such moves appear to be natural and could supplement the benefits of the global free trade system based on GATT. But there is always the risk that the groups will turn into exclusive trade blocs and eventually shrink world trade, the paper said.

If GATT operates more effectively, it would discourage the transforming of open trade groups into closed economic blocs, the paper said, stressing the importance of achieving a successful conclusion of the uruguay round.

Touching on assistance to the Soviet Union, the paper suggested Western nations can learn from the Marshall Plan, the restructuring plan in 1948-51 that helped Western Europe recover from World War II.

In addition, it suggested that western assistance should include accepting the Soviets into international economic systems such as the World Bank and GATT, and helping them set up a system to encourage investment.

It is also vital to cooperate in renewing facilities for energy production and distribution, the paper said.

North Korea

Japan's Stance on Nuclear Issue Viewed

SK3011052891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0453 GMT 30 Nov 91

["NODONG SINMUN Commentator's Article: 'What Does Japan Seek in Nuclear Problem?'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang November 30 (KCNA)—Japan expressed the official position of its government categorically negating the November 25 statement of the DPRK Foreign Ministry concerning the question of the signing of the nuclear safeguards accord, contending that "there is no significant change in the stand" of the DPRK.

In this regard, NODONG SINMUN today runs a commentator's article titled "What Does Japan Seek in Nuclear Problem?"

Noting that only Japan takes a negative stand toward our statement, the article says:

The United States and the South Korean authorities, the parties directly concerned with this problem, are attaching importance to the statement and reacting to it affirmatively. But Japan which is not a party concerned with it is uttering words of complaint.

Are the Japanese authorities so blind as to be unable to see the positive nature of the statement? The answer is no.

The United States and the South Korean authorities have not yet clarified their "official stand", saying that since the North's statement is very important, they are now seriously studying it. The Japanese Government, however, raised a rumpus, expressing a negative position earlier than them.

Is this because Japan has "an electronic brain" more sensitive than others"?

No. It is because Japan has an axe to grind. It would be wise to regard this as an act urged by the sinister desire of Japan to become a military power and arm herself with nuclear weapons.

It is nobody's secret that Japan is trying to seek a pretext for nuclear armament at any cost with a dream of becoming a military power.

Therefore, Japan intends to use the fictitious "development of nuclear weapons" by the DPRK as a pretext for arming Japan with nuclear weapons.

This is not our groundless and subjective judgement.

The current Japanese press tone tells us that Japan is openly trying to obtain from the question of our signing the Nuclear Safeguards Accord a pretext for her own nuclear armament.

It is not first time that Japan took a negative stand toward the DPRK Foreign Ministry statement on the nuclear problem.

When the DPRK Foreign Ministry put forward in July a new proposal for turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear- free zone, China and the Soviet Union expressed full support for it and the United States and South Korea also considered the proposal to be positive. Only Japan, however, expressed a negative stand toward it, saying that it is infeasible.

At the September meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency held in Vienna, the United States kept silence but Japan proposed the adoption of a "resolution" calling for an international pressure on the DPRK regarding the question of its signing the Nuclear Safeguards Accord.

The scheme of overseas troops dispatch of the "Self-Defense Forces" getting all the more undisguised in the Japanese Diet is nothing but part of Japan's moves to become a political and military power.

While taking issue with our sincere efforts to solve the question of its signing the Nuclear Safeguards Accord in a fair way, which are highly estimated by all people, Japan seeks to make itself a military power armed with nuclear weapons and act a political power, exercising a certain "influence" on someone.

Japan's act shows that she has not yet discarded its inveterate old aggressive nature.

But the present era will never tolerate Japan's ulterior criminal intention to frighten the Japanese people with a fiction of the DPRK's "development of nuclear weapons" and revive the departed spirit of Japanese militarism.

Kim Il-song Sends Greetings to Lao President

SK0112100491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0854 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 1 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, today sent a message of greetings to Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] and president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, on the occasion of the 16th founding anniversary of the republic.

The message reads in part:

Since the founding of the republic, the Lao people have made a great progress in their efforts to build a new Laos, peaceful, independent, democratic, united and prosperous, under the leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party led by Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan.

The Lao people are now actively striving to strengthen national unity, consolidate the people's democratic system and step up socio-economic development.

Believing that the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation existing between our two parties, two countries and two peoples would grow stronger and develop, I take this opportunity to sincerely wish you and your people greater success in the endeavours for implementing the decisions of the fifth congress of the LPRP.

Daily Observes 16th Anniversary of Laos

SK0212103791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1000 GMT 2 Dec 91

["16 Years of Struggle and Advance"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 2 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today observes the 16th anniversary of the founding of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR).

Noting that the founding of the LPDR was a significant event in the history of the Lao people, the signed article of the paper says:

Since the founding of the republic the Lao people have embarked on the road of the building of a new society independent and prosperous.

The 16 years covered by the republic is a fruitful course traversed by the Lao people in the people's democratic revolution.

The Lao people have made a great progress in the building of a new society under the leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, smashing all the moves of the imperialists and reactionaries.

The imperialists and narrow reactionary circles at home are trying hard to block the advance of the Lao people.

But, the Lao people are steadfastly advancing along the road of victory with a firm conviction of the justness of their cause.

The Lao Government is striving to develop the friendly relations with other countries, while developing cooperation with Asian countries, on the principle of independence.

The Korean people are rejoiced over the success achieved by the Lao people.

The Korean and Lao peoples have supported and closely cooperated with each other in the common struggle against imperialism and for independence and the friendship between Korea and Laos is developing favorably day by day.

The Lao Government and people express full support and solidarity for the Korean people in socialist construction and the struggle for national reunification.

The Korean people warmly congratulate the fraternal Lao people on their national day and wish them great success in the endeavours to build a new society, peaceful, independent, democratic, united and prosperous.

O Chin-u Greets Cuban Armed Forces Day

SK0212055191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0509 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 2 (KCNA)—Vice Marshal of the Korean People's Army O Chin-u, minister of People's Armed Forces, sent a message of greetings to General Raul Castro Ruz, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of the Republic of Cuba, on the occasion of the day of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba.

The message says that in the past 35 years the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces have firmly defended the gains of the revolution achieved at the cost of blood under the correct leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba headed by Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz and reliably guaranteed with arms happiness of the people and their endeavours for socialist construction, decisively smashing the U.S. imperialists' provocative anti-Cuba moves.

Expressing the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations forged between the peoples and armies of Korea and Cuba in the common struggle against imperialism will continue strengthening and developing in the future, too, the message sincerely wishes the minister and officers and men of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba greater success in their work for increasing the defence capability of the country.

ROK Assembly's 'One-Party Show' Denounced

SK0112094691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0840 GMT 1 Dec 91

["One-Party Show"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 1 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comments on the one-party show of the ruling "Democratic Liberal Party" [DLP] at the South Korean "National Assembly".

The traitor No Tae-u's "DLP" railroaded a "motion of autumn grain purchase" through the "Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Committee of the National Assembly" at 03:45 November 27 in the absence of the democratic members. That morning it single-handedly rattled eight "bills" including an "amendment to the Budgetary Accounts Act" through the "Economy and Science Committee" and rushed 15 "bills" through the "Transport and Communications Committee" of the "National Assembly," shutting out the opposition members.

This is a high-handed fascist act of the ruling party ignoring even the elementary formalities of parliamentary democracy, the analyst notes, and stresses:

The above-mentioned "bills", "amendment" and "motion" are extremely anti-popular ones in view of their purposes and contents.

The No group intends to get many "National Assembly" seats not only for the gangsters of the present "Sixth Republic" but also for the core elements of the previous "Fifth Republic" at the "14th National Assembly elections" slated for the spring of next year to turn the "National Assembly" into their one-party theatre, introduce the "parliamentary cabinet system and thus lay foundations for their long-term office.

We can predict through the single-handed act of the No group at the "National Assembly" that No Tae-u will stoop to any infamy to remain in power indefinitely.

Three Principles of Reunification Reaffirmed

SK0312111791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 3 Dec 91

["Three Principles of National Reunification Are Most Just Principles of Reunification Common to Nation, Says NODONG SINMUN"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 3 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN in an article today stresses that the reunification of our country must be realized on all accounts on the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity.

The principles laid down by the great leader President Kim Il- song and published in the July 4 North-South joint statement (1972) are just principles of reunification common to the nation which should be maintained in the solution of the question of the country's reunification.

The article reads in part:

The three principles of national reunification are to reunify the country independently without depending on foreign forces or without foreign interference, in a peaceful way without recourse to arms and by promoting great national unity transcending the differences in ideology, idea and system.

The three principles, jointly agreed upon and proclaimed by the North and the South, are a common milestone for the nation and the principles of reunification, which makes it possible to reunify the country in conformity with the will, desire and interests of the whole nation. No sooner had the principles been published in the world than it won great sympathy and support from the peoples and public circles at home and abroad, and today it is still a common programme of reunification of the nation that enjoys full support and approval of the fellow countrymen.

The North and the South should start from the three principles of national reunification at all times in the solution of the reunification question of the country.

We have made all sincere efforts to solve the reunification question of the country on the three principles of national reunification. Such efforts of ours are fully reflected in our reasonable and fair proposal for reunification through a confederacy.

The South Korean authorities, however, have systematically violated the three principles and deliberately created difficulties and complexities in the solution of the question even by bringing forward such insensible "argument of principle". That is the "three principles" laid down by the South Korean authorities at the past 4th inter-Korean high-level talks. This is a very incoherent behaviour.

The socalled "three principles" of the South Korean authorities are unreasonable, not worth a discussion either in view of the time or in view of their character and content. The "principles" cannot be seen as proceeding from a sincere stand and attitude to solve the reunification question of the country.

If the South Korean authorities truly intend to solve the reunification question of the country in keeping with the will and interests of the nation, they should strictly observe the three principles of national reunification already agreed upon and proclaimed, instead of laying obstacles in the solution of the reunification question by bringing forward the nonsensical "principles".

Voters Express Sentiments on Election Day

SK0112070391 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] The voters across the country on 24 November participated in the election of city and county People's Assembly deputies with great pride and self-respect in being citizens of the chuche socialist fatherland.

All the cities and rural areas were in a festive mood yesterday. At polling stations and other places with colorful decorations the national flag of the Republic fluttered vigorously alongside slogans and propaganda posters saying "Long live the revolutionary sovereignty of the workers and farmers founded and led by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song," "Long live the socialist system of our country," and "All voters, let us participate in the election of the deputies to the city and county People's Assembly without fail and vote in favor of the candidates."

The voters came to the polling stations with a burning desire to accelerate the chuche revolutionary cause, vigorously demonstrating to the entire world the invincible might of socialism of our own style in which the leader, the party, and the masses are wholeheartedly united and are further strengthening the people's government, the weapon of our revolution.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: We should further strengthen the people's government, the strong weapon of revolution and construction, and enhance its function and role in every way so that we may satisfactorily carry out the honorable revolutionary tasks assigned to us.

The voters across the country—deeply aware in their hearts from their life experience that our socialist system, which is growing and developing with each passing day under the leadership of our party, is the superior socialist system adding luster to the most valuable life and honor of an independent man—voted for the candidates. They were warmly resolved to further solidify the people's government and defend, strengthen, and develop this valuable chuche socialist system.

The polling stations across the country were filled with our people's great joy and pride in leading independent and creative socialist lives as masters of the country. The builders of Tongil Street, determined to realize the grand plan for the capital city construction which our party undertook in the nineties under the slogan "We serve the people," participated with voters across the country, proud of having built some 20,000 housing units and a modern street comparable to a city.

Yi Kwang-hyok, head of the Nampo youth construction brigade which completed the construction of some 250 housing units in No. 3 district in Tongil Street using the new solid-type construction process for the first time in our country, voted at the polling station for No. 7 constituency in Nangnang District. Afterward, he said: I voted with inexhaustible gratitude to our party and the government of the Republic which raised and supported me. As a son of a slash and burn farmer, I was forsaken like a piece of gravel on the roadside when our country lost its independence, only to become a labor hero, a deputy to the power organ, and a functionary for building the monument of the times. With the completion of Tongil Street approaching, my trust in our people's government, which conducts true politics for the well-being of the people, becomes all the more stronger.

The honor and joy of independence and a creative life as a proud master of the state and society also overflowed in the heart of Kim Kuk-hwa, a barber at the Sinchon County service station, who was recommended as candidate to the Sinchon County People's Assembly. Kim

Kuk-hwa, who came to the fatherland from Japan where he had received sub-human treatment, became a service functionary loved by the people and a deputy to the power organ. He voted at the polling station for the No. 5 constituency in Sinchon County, and proudly said that our socialist government is truly the genuine government for the people.

The voters in Samjiyon County, from which one can see Mt. Paektu, the sacred mountain of the revolution, proudly participated in the election with self-respect in being citizens of the chuche Korea with the glorious revolutionary tradition. An instructor at the secret Mt. Paektu camp, who voted at the polling station for No. 1 constituency in Samjiyon County, said: Because we have the noble tradition of building the people's government provided by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, our people could build the most superior people's government in this land, carrying on the struggle to realize the independent demands and aspiration of the working popular masses under the banner of socialism.

We cherish deep in our hearts a great national pride and self-respect for adding luster to the great revolutionary tradition, which will last forever like the base of Mt. Paektu, and for accelerating the chuche cause under the leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. Because we have our party's wise leadership and the government serving the people, our people's life is growing with each passing day, and our country is growing and prospering. While all of the people are deeply aware of this with each passing day, the cooperative farmers in the western district of the country, such as the Yonbaek plain, Singyemiruk plain, Onchon plain, and Chungsan plain, who reaped a bumper crop because of the life-giving water from the newly constructed 2,000-ri waterway, were very grateful on this significant election day. The agricultural working people on Oguk cooperative farm in Anak County; on Naebin cooperative farm in Chaeryong County, which boosted grain production to as much as 10,000 tons; and on the cooperative farms in Singye County, Onchon County, Chungsan County, Kaechon County, and Chongju County rejoiced by dancing to peasants' music near the polling stations, proud of a bumper year. They had voted for the candidates with firm trust in our party and government, which have brought about a cataclysmic change by diverting the Taedong, Yesong, Taeryong, and Chungman Rivers so that fields and paddies will overflow with life-giving water.

The 26 honored workers of the No. 2 open-hearth furnace steelworks at Hwanghae iron and steel complex, who were all Songnim Engineering College graduates with engineering degrees, voted for the candidate, warmly feeling our country's superior education policy to make the popular working masses stronger under the higher educational work-study system for the students.

At the polling station for the No. 91 constituency of Sariwon, there was a joyous scene: The triplets Choe Myong-suk, Choe Kyong- chol, and Choe Sun-chol, who entered the Sariwon light industrial vocational college this year, voted for the first time.

Our people's pride in the socialist life brings a happy and rewarding life unimaginable in a corrupt and morbid capitalist society, the old society. This pride is all the more keenly felt by those who have lived long in this land, experiencing all the joy and sorrow of life. Old woman Yun Pong-nae from Sonjuk-tong, Kaesong, who voted for the candidate at the polling station of the No. 5 constituency of Kaesong, said: I have lived through the Japanese imperialists' colonial rule and the Syngman Rhee rule, but I like the present government best. My mother, who was in so much poverty during those harsh years, died a sorrowful death from a fever without being able to get any medicine, leaving me when I was six years old. From then on I worked as a baby sitter for the child of a rich family and wandered about as a beggar. Then I married a peasant, but during the last war he went to the South, deceived by the American rascals. Although my mother could not bring me up, nor was my husband able to support me, the Republic fed me, clothed me, and made my life happy. It educated my five sons and daughters free of charge and enabled them to lead a proud life. Truly, the government of the Republic is the cradle of happiness in which our nation will live happily forever.

Happy and joyous voices were heard from Yim Ok-yong, 106 years old, from Taesong-tong, Sariwon, who voted for the candidate with gratitude to our advanced system for having the highest regard for a man's life; old man No Yong-sin from Uryong-ri, Sinchon; and Cha Won-sil from the 17 March power plant, who recovered from mortal burns thanks to skin grafts and blood donated by some 150 people. On that day, when emotion and laughter filled the polling stations across the country, Kim Song-nyon, candidate academician, professor, and Ph.D. at Kim Il-song University; his son Kim Ho, Ph.D. and assistant professor of the art and science college; the family of Yi Hak-pong, deputy head of the motor works site of Kim Chaek iron and steel complex; Yim Chol-hun and Cho Ok-hui, drivers of the speed battle youth shock brigade guidance bureau and parents of quadruplets from Kumsong-tong, Mangyongdae District; and Pak Chong- sil from Sonchon County and Yun Chae-ok from Koun County, who recently married disabled veterans, and their husbands participated in the election with the people's warm blessings.

The might of our nation's socialist system is being firmly consolidated every day; our people's lives are becoming more abundant; and our revolution is vigorously advancing along the road of sure victory without the slightest wavering in the wind, because the leader, the party, and the masses are truly united in one mind, thus forming a strong chuche of the revolution. All of the people have faith in the party and the people's government.

The heart of every voter participating in the election of deputies to the city and county People's Assemblies, held in a majestic environment where the great march movement of the nineties is on a large scale, is overflowing with the determination to vigorously establish a rich and prosperous chuche socialist fatherland and consolidate as firm as bedrock our people's government, which elucidates the people's sovereignty and dignity.

Ms. Yu Mi-yong, bereaved family member of Mr. Choe Tok-sin, who keenly felt the yearning for the fatherland while living abroad for a long time, voted at constituency No. 24 in Potong River District and stated: While living abroad I cried when I heard the word, fatherland, and always thought about setting foot on the fatherland to find the love of the respected and beloved leader. This was by no means an impulse of the moment. I could not restrain the national pride, dignity, and happiness that I have for the socialist fatherland, where I can entrust my life. I cast a favorable vote for the invaluable fatherland for which I unbearably yearned.

Our people keenly experienced in their everyday lives the gratitude of our nation's socialist system, which values man's independent dignity and freedom. They accepted the ballot provided by the party and the leader with great political faith and consideration and as an expression of determination to uphold the government of the Republic.

Through the call of the party, the Komdok miners are achieving unprecedented results in lead and zinc production by vigorously launching the struggle to produce more. This is in accordance with the blazing flames of the speed creation of the new nineties. They are hailing the election day of deputies of the political ruling power's ruling organs with deep gratitude and delight.

Kumgol, which was changed into a mining city, is blessed with modern welfare and service facilities, such as cultural centers, hospitals, and shops. Thanks to hidden virtues of the party, modern houses are standing in a row. Among the masses waiting to vote, there were people who were playing drums and clanging gongs while merrily dancing in front of constituency No. 27 in Tanchon City. This included the Pak Mun-sop mining group of the south pit of Nampung mine, who were the first to win the honor of the title of the 10,000 ton platoon of loyalty.

The platoon leader Pak Mun-sop voted first. He said that the Komdok miners are of one mind to loyally uphold our party's cause, which makes our socialist fatherland even more wealthy and powerful. He also said that they are working to accumulate non-ferrous metal production, and stated: In our complex some 30 platoons have already fulfilled their yearly target, and many platoons won the honor of the title of the 10,000 ton platoon of loyalty. We will manifest the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude without slowing down our upsurging spirit in the least to produce 20,000 tons of lead and zinc by the end of this year. This is to contribute to conquering the goal for non-ferrous metal production as put forth by the party.

It is not only the Komdok miners who are newly determined to consolidate like bedrock the people's government through the great struggle to produce more on this significant election day.

After finishing the yearly target in late October and having held a wedding banquet arranged by the benevolent affection of our party on 1 November, seven miners of the Kim Yong-il excavation platoon of Toksong mine, Tokchon District mining complex, and their wives were determined to vigorously struggle to produce more coal after casting a favorable vote at constituency No. 130 in Tokchon City. Out of the sheer desire to repay the high trust and expectation of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who personally visited Cholsan Peak to spread warm benevolent affection and elucidated the direction in which they should move, the Musan miners, who blasted continuously in order to be in the forefront of iron ore concentrate production, also participated in the elections. Proud of quickly repairing the No. 2 blast furnace, the honorary Kimchol workers rushed to the polls. Happy about completing the Third Seven-Year Plan ahead of schedule and this year's target with loyalty and hard work, transporters for the West District, including the members of the Na Sang-chon work team of the Chongju locomotive unit, cast a favorable vote. At the poll in Nagwon, a leading plant machinery production base, the children of the 10 party members who safeguarded the party and the leader with their lives by embracing the lofty loyalty during the rigorous Fatherland Liberation War period, participated in the elections with the older generations.

Yu Chae-myong, shop foreman of the cast iron shop in Sinpoyang, who is a son of one of the 10 Nagwon party members, said it seems he can hear the voice of the respected and beloved leader, who shouldered the heavy burden of war, saying that we should not worry too much because we can live well again when we carry out restoration work after the war. Yu Chae-myong also said that the Nagwon working class will brilliantly carry on the tradition of loyalty which was handed down from regiment to regiment. He especially consolidated the resolution that the loyalty of the Nagwon working class to the party and the leader will by expressed by magnificently completing by 15 April of next year [Kim Il-song's 80th birthday] the 18,000 cubic meter oxygen separator which is currently under production.

The scientists and technicians across the nation also participated in the elections, filled with the revolutionary fervor of firmly consolidating the people's government with science and technology.

Yi To, researcher at the Geology Institute under the Academy of Sciences, who received a doctor's degree and the title of alternate academician and professor from the party and the people's government, cast a favorable vote at constituency No. 99 at Pyongsong City and said: When the people's government was born after liberation, the history of our nation's scientific and technological development also took its first step. This history was embroidered with stories of love and faith toward the scientists and technicians by the great leader and our party. By brilliantly carrying out the new third-year plan to develop science and technology, our scientists are determined to contribute to strengthening our socialist government and repay the great faith and expectation of the party and the leader.

While full of national pride and dignity, all of the voters are also yearning for the reunification of the fatherland on this election day.

The voters of Kaesong City participated in the elections with the blazing determination to hasten the reunification of the fatherland. Kaesong City is close to the South side where the colonial rule of the U.S. imperialists is trampling on national dignity and sovereignty.

Kim Hae-suk, manager of the Kaesong handicrafts export plant, voted at constituency No. 2 at Kaesong City. She had felt the pain of national division and seemed to be at a loss for words whenever she looked toward the South. She was not able to sleep when there was a happy event because she longed even more for the reunification of the fatherland. Therefore, when the 15 August pan-national rally was held, she participated by holding the Korean flag in one hand and flags saying, "Korea is one," and "Reunification of the fatherland," in the other hand. She said that even now it seems that she can hear the cries of the representatives from the North, South, and overseas appealing for reunification. She emphasized that in the hearts of our people there is no wall of division. Therefore, the resented Military Demarcation Line must be abolished as soon as possible and reunification achieved.

On this significant election day, the voters living along the area of the demarcation line were spending a happy day filled with pride and dignity at being a citizen of the chuche fatherland. However, along with citizens from other areas across the nation, they were not able to take their minds off the people of the South.

The indomitable man Yi In-mo, who is bedridden and alone in the South, cannot return to his family because of the wall of division, even though he has been in prison for 34 years. Whenever Kim Sun- im, wife of Yi In-mo, thinks about her husband she is in agony because she is happy under the benevolent affection of the Workers Party of Korea and the government of the Republic. Pak Ok-chun, manager of the Tongdaewon clothing plant, and Paek Ki-taek, head of the Haksan cooperative farm work team of Hyongjaesan District, are waiting for the day they can meet their relatives and friends in the South. These two people who grew up to be heroes in the Republic were born as sons and daughters of farmers in Hwachon County, Kangwon Province, South Korea. Not only these people, but all of the voters cast a favorable vote out of the sheer desire to hasten the reunification of the fatherland, a long cherished national desire.

By upholding the banner of chuche, the elections of deputies to the city and county people's assemblies was held amid high political fervor. This illustrated again our people's revolutionary spirit and firm will to strengthen the people's government according to the leadership of the party and the leader; dominate a new high peak in socialism by further vigorously carrying out the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural; and realize an independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland.

KCNA Reviews 3 Dec Pyongyang Press

SK0312052591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0422 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang December 3 (KCNA)—Papers here today frontpage a report that President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received a message from Vere Cornwall Bird, prime minister of Antigua and Barbuda, in reply to his message of greetings sent to the latter on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the independence of Antigua and Barbuda.

NODONG SINMUN conveys news that immortal classical works of the great leader President Kim Il-song were reported abroad.

The paper runs an article about the Yangdok District secret base, a regional base of leadership, in the central part of Korea, which had been built in the latter half of the 1930s, the period of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, under the wise guidance of President Kim Il-song.

Papers give an account of a seminar on "Young Men and Women, Be the Young Vanguard Unfailingly Loyal to the Party and the Leader," a work of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, held in Uganda.

MINJU CHOSON in an article says that Comrade Kim Chong-il has built the revolutionary battle sites in Yanggang Province into a grand centre for the education in revolutionary traditions.

Carried in the press are articles and pictures introducing the Hungnam fertilizer complex which has turned into a large and modern one, demonstrating the potentials of the independent economy.

Econews of the press includes reports about the increasing production of iron headings at the Musan mining complex and about brisk carpeting of paddy fields with humus soil in rural communities throughout the country.

NODONG SINMUN in an article calls for carrying forward and developing the revolutionary traditions.

Papers inform the readers of the sojourn in Pyongyang of U.S.- resident Korean Mun Son-myong, president of the World Peace Federation, and his entourage.

A contact was made between the chief liaison officials of the two sides for the 5th inter-Korean high-level talks, says the press.

Papers inform the readers that Kim Chong-su, chairman of the Association of Korean Residents in Japan for Peaceful Reunification, released a press statement denouncing the United States and the South Korean authorities for having signed the "wartime support agreement," a document of treachery and war, the All India Indo-Korean Friendship Association and the Indian Committee for Supporting Korea's Reunification issued a joint statement.

NODONG SINMUN carries an article explaining that national reunification must be realised on the basis of three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity.

South Korean news columns of the press include reports that an inaugural declaration of the "National Alliance for Democracy and National Reunification" was published at its inaugural meetings and publications exposed the "Sixth Republic's" crimes and condemned the "second- stage war against crime."

Conveyed in papers are voices of foreign political and public figures praising the proposal for reunification through a confederacy as a most reasonable and realistic reunification proposal and a joint statement of organisations of different countries denouncing the new war provocation moves of the United States and the South Korean authorities.

Included in foreign news columns of the press are reports that leaders of various countries expressed support to the struggle of the Palestinian people, the 15th meeting of the coordinating committee of the non-aligned news agencies' pool agencies was held in Havana, the second summit of the "Group of 15" was held in Caracas, the 26th general meeting of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations was held in Rome, and a report about the recent Soviet situation.

NODONG SINMUN deals with economic news from Tanzania, Egypt, Nigeria, Tunisia and Madagascar.

The paper carries an article titled "The United States Must Rectify Its Korea Policy."

South Korea

'Appropriate Action' Promised on Nuclear Plans

SK3011025091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0239 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 30 (YONHAP)—South Korea will take "appropriate action" in the nearest future to follow up on nuclear initiatives announced by U.S. President George Bush and South Korean President No Tae-u, Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok said Saturday.

Seoul and Washington were discussing details of the U.S. and Korean initiatives, and it was difficult to say when the nuclear withdrawal from Korea would be completed, Yi told a news conference.

"At an appropriate time in the nearest future, we will be able to take an action," he said, suggesting the U.S. nuclear pullout will be carried out at a fast pace.

"We will consider declaring non-presence of nuclear weapons in South Korea at an appropriate time as well," Yi said.

Seoul and Washington are holding consultations on overall securities arrangements on the Korean peninsula, and the matter was discussed at the 23rd Korea-U.S. Security Consultative Meeting here earlier this month, the foreign minister said.

North Korea is unpredictable and it is uncertain whether it will sign a nuclear safeguards accord by next February, when the directors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) are to meet.

"We believe that given the overall political development, North Korea will have to change its policy. We will be carefully watching North Korea's reaction at the IAEA governors' meeting Dec. 5-6, and inter-Korean prime ministers' talks," Yi said.

Next week's IAEA meeting would be too short to discuss North Korea's nuclear development but the topic might be raised when the meeting addressed nuclear inspection in Brazil and Argentina, Yi told the press conference.

He refused to link the inter-Korean prime ministers' talks with North Korea's nuclear program.

"We must simultaneously pursue effective progress in inter-Korean dialogue and deterrence of North Korea's nuclear arms development. Forestalling dialogue over nuclear controversy is not an effective method," Yi said.

"South Korea does plan to demand at the fifth inter-Korean prime ministers' talks next month that North Korea receive immediate inspection of its nuclear facilities," he said.

The foreign minister denied that either Seoul or Washington was considering military action to stop North Korea's nuclear arms program.

"Suggestions of military alternatives were not made by U.S. policymakers, and we are not considering it either. We are opting for all available diplomatic and political solutions," he said.

North, South Stances on Nuclear Issue Viewed

SK2811123991 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 27 Nov 91 p 3

[By Hong Su-won, editorial staff, from the column "Morning Rays": "Bubbling Over Nuclear Weapons at Home and Abroad"]

[Text] Roughly three years have passed since North Korea's nuclear development suddenly caught our attention around the time Korea hosted the 1988 Summer Olympics. It has repeatedly come back when we were about to forget about it, and then went away. It has visited us frequently since the end of last year.

Some say that North Korea's nuclear fuel reprocessing facilities, said to be under construction, will be completed by 1995, claiming that they have reliable evidence to back their theory, while others say that these facilities will be completed much sooner than thought, by 1993. According to intelligence agencies and foreign newspapers bubbling over quotes from nuclear specialists, North Korea was first believed to be only one or two years away from producing its own atomic bombs comparable to the one dropped on Hiroshima; some even have suggested that it is not a matter of years, but of months.

What about today? In the space of the last couple of months, the United States announced that it will take back and destroy almost all of its tactical nuclear weapons deployed abroad. In the meantime, North Korea put forward a proposal for adopting a South-North joint declaration to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear- free zone, a revised version of an earlier proposal; and South Korea declared a non-nuclear policy based on the U.S. announcement of a nuclear arms reduction plan. Nevertheless, the alarm noisily went off throughout Northeast Asia, whose suspicion about North Korea's nuclear development is not much different in tone. Contrary to appearances, the alarm is still strongly tinged with an appeasement through the use of force rather than a compromise through negotiations.

At a time when many people, particularly the U.S. Congress, strongly favor force, such as imposed inspection of North Korea's nuclear facilities by international organizations or the use of force to make North Korea abandon its nuclear development, officials at the U.S. Defense and State Departments, pretending that they have not heard these voices, emphatically claim that they have opted to intensify diplomatic pressure. They even play innocent. They suggested that if their plan for withdrawing nuclear weapons from South Korea is doubted, they would think about letting an international supervisory team inspect U.S. military bases in South Korea to verify their withdrawal. Moreover, the South side gives a completely unfeasible reply to North Korea's call for simultaneous nuclear inspections in the South and North, saying that it will place not only the nuclear weapons, but also all manner of military facilities under inspection if the North agrees to let in nuclear inspectors, while simultaneously calling it an unreasonable proposal. These moves by the government are aimed at driving away the opposing side, while justifying its scheme with empty appeasements. Counter proposals only make people wonder if the government is not following a course already charted.

The fuss over nuclear issues on the Korean peninsula, which appears to be very tangled, is caused by the combined desire of Korea and the United States to have a nuclear umbrella and unharmed passage of nuclear weapons through Korean territory and to remove the nuclear threat, from which North Korea hopes for some kind of compensation. The nuclear umbrella that Korea would not easily give up can be guaranteed as an outside deterrent. However, Korea needs to agree to what is known as unharmed passage of nuclear-bearing military aircraft and vessels through its territory and territorial air space and waters to make such an outside deterrent more effective. It is generally understood that a country must obtain implicit or explicit consent from a host nation for the unharmed passage of its military aircraft and vessels through the territories, territorial air space, and waters of the host nation. Otherwise, under no international laws can any nation claim the right to move its nuclear weapons through their territories, territorial air space, and waters, arguing that the nuclear weapons are harmless. What makes the South's non-nuclear policy controversial is that the policy is similar to Japanese policy: The passage of U.S. nuclear weapons through its territory is discussed in advance in order to make U.S. nuclear umbrella more effective.

Because the North's primary objective is the removal of U.S. tactical nuclear weapons, it has put forward a variety of proposals to expedite the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons and the ensuing verification. In spite of all this, what it genuinely hopes to achieve is not so much a verification as sitting face to face with the United States at a negotiating table. There is no question that at this negotiating table North Korea will try to yank a guarantee for the removal of nuclear threats from the United States.

Nonetheless, North Korea should actively try to discuss the "denuclearization of the Korean peninsula," which now more than ever appears to have a greater chance of success in the wake of the withdrawal of U.S. tactical nuclear weapons, at the South-North high-level talks. We have heard a rumor that the two sides have agreed in principle to discuss the removal of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, at the four rounds of contacts at Panmumjom between the delegations of the South and North, held in camera, inflating our hope for the fifth round of the South-North high-level talks scheduled for December.

On the other hand, the recent "nuclear commotion" has given a moral boost to hard-liners in our society. We must guard against them, because we are constantly hearing people assert that whether to continue not only the material exchanges between the South and North, which are growing every year, but also the high-level talks, should be decided by linking them to the suspicion about North Korea's nuclear development project and its refusal to agree to nuclear inspection.

Government Concerned Over Role of Japan's Forces

SK0312085591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0742 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 3 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea expressed renewed concern Tuesday on the passage by Japan's House of Representatives of a bill allowing Japan to dispatch its Self- Defense Forces abroad in support of U.N. peacekeeping operations.

"South Korea understands Japanese attempts to participate in the peacekeeping operations as a U.N. member and to assume a role commensurate with its national status," a Foreign Ministry statement said.

"We have been expressing concern on the dispatch, which carries the possibility of future military action, as one of the countries subjected to an unfortunate past and asked Japan to handle the issue with prudence," the statement said.

"We repeat our concern since the Japanese House of Representatives passed the bill allowing dispatch of its self- defense forces," it said.

Korea was held under Japanese colonial rule for 35 years (1910-1945) before gaining independence at the end of World War II.

Fears of Japanese Military Strength Discussed

SK2811111691 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 19 Nov 91 p 21

[Article by Administrative Affairs Desk reporter Kim Chang-su from the column "Phenomenon and Diagnosis": "Controversy Surrounding the Defense White Paper"]

[Text] Are Japan's military forces "offensive" or "defensive"? This question, which at first sight appears to be too vague to define, has recently developed into a delicate point of contention between the ROK and Japan.

The controversy was sparked when foreign media began reporting on the 1991-92 Defense White Paper. In a press conference held on 29 October, the Japanese Foreign Ministry instantly rebutted the Defense White Paper, arguing: It is wrong and regrettable for the ROK to describe Japan's military posture as offensive.

A few days later the deputy director general of the Japanese Defense Agency mentioned it again in an interview with CHOSON ILBO.

Japan made an issue of a chapter in the Defense White Paper mentioning Japan's security strategy and military posture. It described Japan's defense forces as "being transformed into offensive forces for the purpose of forward defense" based on the first mid-term defense forces readjustment plan for 1986-90 and the new, second mid-term defense capabilities readjustment plan for 1991-95.

The Defense Ministry brushed aside the Japanese reaction, saying: It does not matter very much.

Our side made its position on the Japanese protest clear by explaining through diplomatic channels the background against which the description had been made, with quotes from the Defense White Paper.

Superficially, the controversy over the Defense White Paper died in a lukewarm manner as the Japanese side did not comment any further.

However, given the concern about the possibility of Japan becoming a military giant constantly expressed not only by Korea, but also by other neighboring countries, the appraisal of Japan's military capabilities is a pending security issue that can spark a great deal of controversy.

Given the special geopolitical and historical relations between Korea and Japan, this issue will have great impact on both of them.

The fact that the "negative influences" of the Japanese military forces depicted in the Defense White Paper released last year provoked as much reaction from Japan as it has this year is an indication of the sensitivity of this issue.

A Defense Ministry official said: There is no denying that Japan can have as much influence on Korea as the United States in view of the sphere of their influence affecting Korea's security. Although Japan is not assumed to be an imaginary enemy, its buildup in defense capabilities is worth watching.

In a press information release distributed separately from the White Paper, the Defense Ministry made it clearer.

According to this information on Japan's strategy toward the Northeast Asia and its military posture, "Japan has been increasing its defense spending by 1 trillion yen every five years since the seventies in order to expand its military and political influence commensurate with its economic might. As a result, it has now entered the rank of military powers, with its defense expenditures reaching the level of 4.4 trillion yen (equivalent to $32.4 billion) in 1990."

This release also says: By the end of the nineties, Japan's defense capabilities will exceed what is necessary for defending Japan. Northeast Asian countries victimized by Japanese militarism during World War II are very concerned about the drastic military buildup in Japan.

Concerning the defense budget, the Defense Ministry has recently stated that an increase in military spending to an appropriate level for national defense is inevitable as part of preparations for neighboring countries, including Japan's military buildup and China's military modernization.

Nevertheless, not a few people are opposed to the idea of linking the strengthened defense posture, an increase in defense spending, to preparations for Japan's becoming a military giant. Choe Yong, director of the Institute for Studies of International Peace and Security, said: Now that the Cold War is over, any attempts to excessively capitalize on Japan's moves to become a military giant as an excuse for new military buildup should be stopped now that the Cold War is over.

By the same token, some people have noted that it was not desirable for the Defense Ministry to have sparked unnecessary controversy by mentioning it in such an official document as the Defense White Paper, regardless of whether it concerns Japan's move to become a military giant or not.

ROK To Delay Recognizing Ukrainian Independence

SK0312025891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0243 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 3 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea will not recognize the Ukraine's independence until its relations with the Soviet federation are more clearly defined, Foreign Ministry officials said Wednesday.

Ukrainians voted by an overwhelming majority Monday to leave the Soviet Union and elected Leonid Kravchuk as their president.

"The Ukraine voted for independence but remains a member of the common defense pact between the federation and the republics. It also supports inter-republic nuclear policy coordination among Russia, Belorussia, the Ukraine and Kazakhstan. It is uncertain whether the Ukraine will be able to declare complete independence from the Soviet federation," an official said.

"We will match what other Asian nations do in recognizing the Ukraine," he said.

The United States and major European countries have suggested they may soon recognize the republic's independence.

Korea has recognized the three Baltic states—Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania—and established diplomatic ties with them.

Cambodian Deputy Minister on Resuming Relations

SK0212101291 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 29 Nov 91 p 5

["Exclusive" interview with Cambodian Vice Foreign Minister Long Visalo by correspondent Cho Pyong-chol in Phnom Penh on 27 November]

[Text] With the violent demonstration against Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan on 27 November, Cambodia is at a crossroads: It can go back to a civil war or achieve peace.

KYONGHYANG SINMUN had an exclusive interview with Long Visalo, Cambodian vice foreign minister, in his office on 27 November, and asked him about the future of Cambodia, ROK-Cambodian diplomatic relations, and other topics.

On the resumption of diplomatic relations which have been suspended since the Pol Pot regime, he said that "there is no special difficulty" and he strongly hoped for ROK investment and economic exchanges.

[Cho Pyong-chol] What do you think about the demonstration against Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan and about his injuries?

[Long Visalo] The Paris Peace Agreement signed to settle Cambodian situation admits the participation of the Khmer Rouge. Therefore, it is our government's duty to prevent this kind of incident. However, what can we do if the people refuse to accept him?

[Cho] What is Khieu Samphan's reaction to the demonstration?

[Long Visalo] We had asked Khieu Samphan to return to Bangkok, but he refused. He accused us of [inciting] the incident. In the long run, he surrendered to the people's pressure, accepting our proposal.

[Cho] The entire world is focused on this incident.

[Long Visalo] We are also watching international reaction, including the Khmer Rouge's. We did not predict what would happen when the Khmer Rouge returns. This is our fault.

[Cho] What do you think about the future of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], which should handle the formation of the Cambodian constitutional assembly, the formation of the government, holding general elections?

[Long Visalo] There are two solutions. One is to move the SNC out of Cambodia. Another is to leave the SNC in Phnom Penh, with the UN peacekeeping troops protecting the SNC members. However, I doubt the United Nations will take such a responsibility.

[Cho] What do you think about the argument that, even though Khmer Rouge has representation, major figures of the Pol Pot regime, including Pol Pot and Khieu Samphan, should be excluded from representation and leave Cambodia?

[Long Visalo] That is a good idea. The representatives of the Kampuchean Democratic Union (the three political factions, including the Khmer Rouge, except the current

Cambodian regime) can be replaced, I think. The question is whether the Cambodian people accept the Khmer Rouge delegation.

[Cho] Diplomatic relations between our countries have been suspended. Do you intend to resume diplomatic relations?

[Long Visalo] This depends upon the Cambodian People's Party and on Cambodia's foreign policy. Regardless of race and political system, Cambodia wants to establish relations with all countries based on mutual respect.

[Cho] Prince Sihanouk stayed in North Korea for a long time. There are many North Koreans around him, including guards. Will this be a stumbling block to relations between our two countries?

[Long Visalo] We established diplomatic relations with North Korea. This does not become an issue in resuming diplomatic relations with the ROK. Prince Sihanouk employs North Korean guards. This is a private matter. Our government does not ask him to employ North Korean guards. Establishing diplomatic relations with the ROK is a very good thing.

[Cho] I think that negotiations should be held before resuming relations between the two countries.

[Long Visalo] Negotiations are under way with your country's embassy in Bangkok. We cannot find any problem between the two countries. However, the time is not right, and we should wait. This is why I think we had better begin with economic cooperation.

Deputy Foreign Minister Long Visalo, born in 1947, majored in engineering in Hungary. He was ambassador to Cuba in 1982 and now working as Deputy Foreign Minister from 1987.

North Said Aiding Third World Nuclear Programs

SK0312051391 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 2 Dec 91

[By correspondent Yi Pyong-sun from Berlin; recorded]

[Text] (Konrad Potsner), head of the German federal information agency, in an interview with the German daily DIE WELT said today that North Korea's standard of nuclear weapons technology is such that it is now capable of increasing the range of Scud missiles, exceeding the range of the Scud missiles exported to the Middle East. (Konrad Potsner) revealed that North Korea not only has already built a Scud missile manufacturing plant in Syria but also is assisting Middle East countries with the technology to increase the range of Scud missiles.

(Konrad Potsner) said that North Korea is leading the technological cooperation with Third World countries for the development of rockets based on its technology of developing nuclear weapons, maintaining close cooperative relations with these countries. Therefore, if this cooperative system for the development of nuclear weapons continues, with North Korea playing the key role in it, a considerable number of Third World countries will possess nuclear and biochemical weapons within ten years, (Potsner) added.

Countermeasures to GATT Proposals Prepared

SK0312022991 Seoul THE KOREA ECONOMIC WEEKLY in English 2 Dec 91 pp 1, 4

[Text] The government reportedly is working on a package of measures designed to cope efficiently with GATT Director-General Arthur Dunkel's working paper calling for the comprehensive tariffication of agricultural products without exception.

The measures offer varied alternatives for Korea's stance at the Uruguay Round negotiations, including one under which access to the rice market will be allowed but no tariffication of rice will be accepted, informed government sources said.

The other alternative calls for levying 500-700 percent tariffs on rice over more than 10 years, almost the same as a Japanese proposal, the sources said.

The third alternative urges to make the best use of GATT's articles Nos. 11 and 18 through further joint efforts with other countries to ease drastic qualification standards stipulated by these GATT articles, the sources explained.

The government made it clear that it rejects a working paper of GATT Director-General Arthur Dunkel proposing tariffs on rice without exception.

Meeting reporters, Minister Cho Kyong-sik of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said that the chief Korean delegation in Geneva was instructed to convey to Dunkel Korea's basic stance opposing Dunkel's working paper.

Because of the strong objection from Korea, Japan and Canada, it will be difficult to put forth Dunkel's working paper as a major negotiation agenda item at the 35 GATT-member negotiation talks, Minister Cho explained.

Further Rumors of Impending Cabinet Reshuffle

SK0312132491 Seoul YONHAP in English 1309 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 3 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u is expected to announce a large-scale cabinet reshuffle as early as Dec. 20, a highly-placed government official said Tuesday.

Meanwhile, informed sources said Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu and Youth-Sports Minister Pak Chol-on are almost certain to leave the cabinet to run in the coming national elections.

Finance Minister Yi Yong-man, Energy-Resources Minister Chin-nyom and Government Administration Minister Yi Yon-taek are expected to be among the people to leave the cabinet in connection with the national elections, they added.

Kim Chong-in, senior presidential secretary for economic affairs, is tipped as a powerful candidate to replace Choe Kak-kyu in the cabinet, sources said. Sports Minister Pak Chol-on is likely to be replaced by Mun Tae-kap, chairman of Sports Promotion Corporation, or Gen. Yi Chin-sam, outgoiing Army chief of staff, they said.

Sources, however, said that Prime Minister Chong Won-sik, Agency for National Security Planning Director So Tong-kwon, Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ock, Home Minister Yi Sang-yon, Justice Minister Kim Ki-chun and Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku, are expected to retain their posts.

There will be no major reshuffle in the presidential office, sources said.

Assembly Passes Budget Over Opposition Protests

SK0312030091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0107 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 3 (YONHAP)—The National Assembly passed South Korea's 1992 budget early Tuesday after trimming it to 33.2 trillion won (44 billion U.S. dollars), cutting 305 billion won each in revenues and expenditures from the bill.

After overnight negotiations, the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) and opposition Democratic Party (DP) put the revised budget bill to a vote around 4:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Of the 262 lawmakers present, 196 voted for the bill, 65 against and one abstained. All DP members voted against the bill, but the DLP has 215 of the 299 National Assembly seats.

The cuts included 150 billion won taken from the anti-disaster reserve fund, 17 billion won from the general reserve fund, 15 billion won from defense spending, and 20 billion won from the fund for trade fair.

In non-tax revenues, 119.7 billion won was cut in sales of state- owned land, 50 billion won in fines and confiscation, 2.8 billion won in admission and tuition fees at state-run schools, and 12.4 billion won in port fees.

DP lawmakers said they voted against the budget because the DLP had passed budget-related law bills in an irregular way in the Assembly Finance Committee Monday. The DP submitted six budget- related law bills to the Finance Committee but all were dropped due to DLP opposition.

DP chief policy-maker Rep. Yu Chun-sang said the government's budget bill was certain to worsen "the crisis of our economy, as it was drawn up with the aim of increasing funds for campaigning for the four rounds of elections to be conducted next year."

He said cutting the budget without revising the tax laws would only mean "the National Assembly's giving up its duty."

Opposition lawmakers abstained when the budget-related law bills, including a revision to the law on restriction of tax reduction and exemption, were referred to a vote in the plenary session.

Tougher wrangling is expected between the rival parties from Tuesday as they are to deal with a horde of controversial bills and motions that the ruling party rammed through committee last week over the protests of the opposition.

The DLP had earlier suggested slashing the government-proposed budget by 300 billion won in expenditures and the DP by 335 billion won. They held eight rounds of floor leaders' talks, but failed to create a consensus.

No Tae-u Discusses Assembly Confrontations

SK3011003091 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 30 Nov 91 p 2

[Text] President No Tae-u, expressing regrets over the crippled operations of the National Assembly, yesterday stressed the need for dialogue and consultation between the ruling and opposition parties to narrow their differences.

"Both the ruling and opposition parties are required to make efforts to show to the people the look of a mature National Assembly by seeking to solve problems through dialogue and compromise," he said.

The President was referring to the latest political stalemate that paralyzed the regular Assembly session for the past three days following his ruling Democratic Liberal Party's [DLP] railroading of bills in standing committees.

During a meeting with Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the DLP, No said, "Confrontation between the ruling and opposition parties at the Assembly must be limited to policies. It is the people who judge which party has the people's interests at heart."

"The National Assembly should be the forum for hot debates on policies between rival lawmakers," No said.

No's DLP unilaterally passed a host of bills, including one on the development of "Cheju-do," which the opposition Democratic Party opposes as being controversial thus leading to their refusal to act on the bills.

During his weekly meeting with Kim, No also stressed that next year's budget should be passed by the Assembly within the legal deadline of Dec. 2.

He told Kim that the DLP should do its utmost to pass other necessary bills before the regular session closes (on Dec. 18).

"The passage of the budget and other are necessary for the execution of major policies," the President said.

Kim apologized to No for the "crippled operations of the Assembly," and reported that the DLP would "run the Assembly session in accordance with the principle of parliamentarianism through dialogue and compromise."

No Tae-u Gives Trade Day Address

SK3011071991 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 0117 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Address given by President No Tae-u at the Korea Foreign Trade Association hall on 30 November—live]

[Text] Dear entrepreneurs, workers, and fellow countrymen:

Today we mark the 28th anniversary of Trade Day, renewing our resolution to be a prosperous advanced country.

Above all, I warmly encourage workers and entrepreneurs who are working and sweating day and night in industries across the country. I also warmly encourage our trade workers who are, even at this moment, working around the world in the five oceans and on the six continents.

Thirty years have passed since we pursued trade promotion with full-fledged economic development. For the last generation we have achieved an unprecedented and brilliant development.

From a poor agricultural country with an $87 per capita income in 1962, we have reached a $6,000 per capita income and are on threshold of being an advanced country. It was trade that has drawn the locomotive of this rapid development that the world called a miracle.

Our country, with no resources, capital, technology, or experience, has overcome poverty and launched into the wide world, thus creating prosperity.

The harmony among vigorous labor ambition, creative enterprise spirit, and the government's efficient policy has demonstrated a great power. This has made it possible for our trade to achieve a brilliant success. The country, whose exports and imports were under $500 million a year, is now a country whose trade reaches $150 billion, ranking 13th in the world.

The road we have followed in promoting trade means the course of developing our economy. New investment, creation of co-prosperity, industrial development, and technological innovation have all been achieved through trade. The direction we must take in order to be a prosperous country is clear: We should promote economic development through trade.

We should unfurl the second generation's blueprint aimed at promoting trade in the 21st century, thereby achieving the great ambition of being an advanced country.

My fellow countrymen:

On the threshold of being an advanced country, our economy now faces a great challenge. Our economy has maintained a rise of more than 8 percent. Exports, however, have become stagnant and trade deficits are increasing. If this trend continues, the trade deficits is expected to be greater next year.

The competition of our commodities lags behind other countries', not only on international markets but even in domestic markets. I think this is because our economy has not fully adapted to a new trend of openness and democratization, which began three or four years ago.

We should again take the road leading to advance. If we retreat any more, it will be more difficult for us to revitalize our development. To catch up with an advanced country, we should overcome as soon as possible all of our internal challenges and inefficient things that have a bad effect on competition, such as productivity, level of technology, decreased labor enthusiasm, and entrepreneurial spirit. In this respect, next year will be an important year for deciding our trade and economic future.

My fellow countrymen:

To revitalize a brisk trade growth and to narrow trade deficits, the competitiveness of manufacturing industries should, above all, be strengthened. Manufacturing industries are the base of a sustained trade expansion and economic growth. The government will press ahead more vigorously with the current policy of strengthening the competitiveness of manufacturing industries, such as wage stability, industrial stability, the manpower shortage, and expansion of social overhead capital.

To foster skilled technicians and other technological manpower, the government will revise an educational system on industry and technology and will take an epochal measure to promote a technological development. Our industry and high trade growth will be achieved by mainly by technological innovations.

In keeping with the trend of rapid technological development, the government will support the revision of an industrial structure. It will also promote the Second Five-Year Plan of localizing the production of mechanical products and other materials next year.

I understand well the high interest rates and shortage of funds with which export enterprises are currently faced. The government will take a more efficient measure, including a smooth provision of trade funds and expansion of funds for facilities and investment.

The work of managing our markets and exploiting new markets is as important as the work of producing low-priced and good-quality commodities. It is urgent that, not content with manufacturing export products, we should maximize an added value, including sales, in overseas markets.

In collaboration with enterprises, the government will take a positive measure of raising additional funds to support the development of an original trade mark and expansion of overseas markets.

At the same time, the government will establish an export insurance corporation so that our enterprises can safely exploit new markets.

My fellow countrymen:

Whether our economy overcomes today's tribulations and makes another leap depends on our efforts. More than anything else, we should work more diligently. There is no way to make a more prosperous country than to work more diligently than other people.

Entrepreneurs should set up a new management strategy conforming to the conditions of a new era and should more positively achieve a technological innovation. Workers should make more efforts to produce more elaborate and high quality goods. The competition of low quality commodities is affected by price. However, high quality and technological commodities, however high their price, can be sold.

Workers and entrepreneurs should firmly unite with the consciousness of a common fate. Based on the consciousness of solidarity—that if an enterprise fails in competition, both workers and enterprise lose their positions—enterprises should create an atmosphere for sharing interests with workers.

New waves are surging in our society. The movement for self- restraint and conservation is based on the principle of national awakening. The creative spirit for working more and taking another leap is reviving. The independent movement to increase productivity, quality, and trade is expanding from work place to work place. This is very encouraging.

If entrepreneurs, workers, and all fellow countrymen keep a cool head about economic reality and do their best in their positions, the difficulty our economic is facing will be surely overcome.

Our fellow countrymen, who have achieved today's prosperous country on the ruins of the war, will display their great potential once again.

My fellow countrymen:

We are living in a rapidly changing era on the threshold of a new century. The Cold War system that dominated this world since the war is crushed. A new international order centered on economic power is forming. The might of economic power, science, and technology will lead a new century and the world.

Advanced countries are rapidly striding toward the 21st century. Even less developed countries than ours are energetically catching up with us. The countries that are left behind in competition and their people will fail. The challenge on the way to entering the ranks of advanced countries is rough and difficult.

A great change is taking place in the long deadlock on the Korean peninsula. We believe that the day of reunification—the fellow countrymen of the North and the South will form a country—will come within this century.

It is inconceivable that a great reunified Korea can be achieved without the might of prosperity.

Our advance toward being a great trade country, with figures increasing to $300 or $500 billion from $150 billion, lays the foundation for expediting reunification and for opening our bright future.

On the occasion of a significant day of winding up a generation in our trade history, we should renew our resolution to be a trade country with all fellow countrymen.

I wholeheartedly congratulate enterprises, trade organs concerned, and the people on having the honor of receiving prizes today for their sacrifices in the front line of trade last year.

Thank you. [applause]

Trade Deficit Grows, Nears $11 Billion

SK0212115091 Seoul YONHAP in English 1102 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 2 (YONHAP)—South Korea's runaway trade deficit widened to 10.77 billion U.S. dollars on a customs clearance basis at the end of last month, according to a tentative tally released by the Trade and Industry Ministry on Monday.

The nation had a shortfall of 675 million dollars in November on exports of 6.67 billion dollars, up 10.8 percent from the same month last year, and imports of 7.34 billion dollars, down 2.4 percent. Both exports and imports amounted to a monthly record of the year.

As of Oct. 31, cumulative exports for the year were tallied at 64.18 billion dollars, up 10.7 percent, and imports at 74.95 billion dollars, up 18.3 percent.

Arrivals of letters of credit, a reliable yardstick of export trends two or three months in advance, were worth 3.44 billion dollars last month, up 5 percent from a year earlier. Import approvals reached 4.23 billion dollars, down 20.6 percent. The ministry expected a slowdown in the growth of imports.

Container exports rebounded while textile products and toys took a plunge from a temporary upturn in October.

Burma

Philippine Foreign Minister Arrives 2 Dec

BK0212141791 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] At the invitation of U Ohn Gyaw, minister of foreign affairs of the Union of Myanmar [Burma], a Philippine delegation headed by Foreign Minister Mr. Raul Manglapus flew in to Myanmar this afternoon.

The Philippine foreign minister, Mrs. Manglapus, and the Philippine delegation were welcomed at Yangon [Rangoon] airport by U Ohn Gyaw and his wife; responsible officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ms. Rosalinda V. Tirona, Philippine ambassador to Myanmar; and staff members of the Philippine Embassy.

At 1800, the Philippine minister, his wife, and delegation attended a reception held by the Philippine ambassador at her residence.

At 1930, Mr. and Mrs. Manglapus met with U Ohn Gyaw and his wife at the Lawkanat Room of the Karaweik Hall. Also present on the occasion were directors general and responsible officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Later, U Ohn Gyaw and his wife held a dinner for the visiting minister, his wife, and entourage in the Shwewa Room of the Karaweik Hall.

Begins Talks on Regional Issues

HK0212102491 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Mangalapus formally began the bilateral talks with Myanmar, formerly called Burma, on various regional issues. One of the issues to be discussed is the Myanmar people's right to vote during elections.

Other issues to be discussed tomorrow will be Myanmar's foreign economic relations with other countries, particularly with the Philippines.

Manglapus is hoping that his talks with the Myanmar officials will benefit the country's [not further identified] economic situation.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

King, Queen Leave for 4-Day State Visit to Oman

BK0112135691 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] His Majesty the King Sultan Azlan Shah and Her Majesty the Queen Tuanku Bainun left for the Sultanate of Oman today on a four-day state visit. When they arrive in Muscat, the royal couple will be met by His Majesty Sultan Qabus of Oman and other dignitaries. Their majesties' visit, which was the first by any Malaysian monarch, will cover several interesting and historical places. They include [words indistinct] and the armed forces' museum in Muscat.

The royal entourage will also be taken to view the royal stable and witness a horse and camel race. Before ending his visit to Oman, his majesty the king will visit the Oman hockey stadium in Muscat.

Zimbabwe Vice President Nkomo Leaves for Home

BK3011091091 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Zimbabwe is interested in adopting some of Malaysia's Felda [Federal Land Development Authority] land scheme strategy in its own land settlement program. Its vice president, Dr. Joshua Nkomo, said although Zimbabwe did not have a similar body for land scheme, it was still possible to adopt some of the strategy used by Felda. He was speaking to reporters at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport before leaving for home after a six-day visit to Malaysia. Dr. Nkomo said he was impressed with Felda's achievement.

While in Malaysia, Dr. Nkomo attended briefings at Felda, the Malaysian Mining Corporation, and the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Department. [words indistinct] the minister of science, technology, and environment, Mr. Low Hieng Ding, and Foreign Ministry officials.

SRV Bank Proposes Joint Imported Rice Venture

BK3011083691 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0756 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Nov 30 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The state-owned Vietnam Agriculture Bank (VBA) may engage in a joint venture with a local bank, Bank Bumiputra, to finance Malaysian importers of rice.

VBA First Deputy Director General Dang Trong Cuong said Bank Bumiputra had agreed in principle to the proposal.

They have asked us to write to them officially, he told reporters at a press conference here Saturday.

Dang and a six-member delegation ended a weeklong study tour here Saturday. They had earlier met Central Bank-Bank Negara officials.

Under the proposed joint-venture programme, VBA was prepared to extend credit facilities to Malaysians to import rice, he said.

Dang said Vietnam's current total export volume of rice was 1.5 million tonnes.

He said Malaysia, which imported rice from Thailand, was interested in importing the product from his country "on a larger scale".

We are also interested in venturing into the rubber-processing sector in which Malaysia has the expertise, he said.

Government Monitors Banned Islamic Movement

BK3011140191 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] The government is monitoring the activities of Muslim students in schools and institutions of higher learning to ensure that they are not involved in the Al-Arqam movement. The deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Dr. Abdul Hamid Osman, said this was in line with the government's action in banning the religious activities of the movement. The Al-Arqam was, however, allowed to continue with its economic activities. He was speaking to reporters after opening a meeting of Muslim women at Subang near Kuala Lumpur.

On the law on zakat [alms] to be introduced in 1993, he said it was aimed at streamlining the collection of zakat from Muslims. He said the law would identify the categories of Muslims required to pay zakat.

Legal Action Set for Islamic Deviationists

BK2911142691 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] The government will take legal action against Al-Arqam members who spread deviationist teachings. Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr. Abdul Hamid Osman told reporters at Parliament House that Islamic religious affairs councils in all the states are monitoring the activities of the movement. A central committee is also studying various measures which could be implemented to counter its deviant teachings.

Singapore

Elected President Legislation Effective 30 Nov

BK3011132291 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 30 Nov 91 p 1

[Text] The landmark Elected President legislation comes into effect today. President Wee Kim Wee will exercise the powers of the Elected President until the end of his term in September 1993.

This was announced in the Government Gazette last night which declared the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore (Amendment) Act 1991 effective from today.

The Act provides for an Elected President with veto powers over principally the spending of national reserves and public appointments.

The notification marks the start of a new and more substantive role for the post of President which has in the last 26 years been cermonial.

As the incumbent president, President Wee is now automatically vested with the powers conferred by the Act. He can now decide on:

—How government reserves are spent by key statutory boards and government companies.

—Key appointments in the civil service.

—Certain checks against abuses of power under the Internal Security Act, the Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act and investigations by the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau.

Under the Act, the Elected President will have to decide on the appointment of key civil servants in consultation with the Presidential Council of Advisers.

A spokesman for the Prime Minister's Office said last night that the names of the five members of the council will be announced soon.

The notification last night also declared that one provision of the Act was still not effective.

This is Section 3, which refers to the requirement that any proposed amendment to the Act will require decision by referendum, for the purpose of entrenching the Act.

It is likely that the Section will only be made effective in about four years.

This is in line with the decision by Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong at the final reading of the Act in January on the grace period needed to iron out procedural and technical adjustments in the initial stages of enforcing the Act.

With the notification last night, Singaporeans will now have to go to the polls to vote for their President every six years.

But this will only be after Mr Wee serves the remainder of his term.

President Wee, who was reappointed by Parliament for a second four-year term in September 1989, is due to end his term in September 1993.

Thereafter, those who wish to stand as candidates for Elected President will have to fulfull certain qualification criteria, set out by the Act.

Arrangements for the election are provided for under the Presidential Elections Act passed in August.

Under this Act, which has not come into force, the election must be called not more than three months before the expiry of the term of office.

In the event of the death or resignation of the incumbent, it must be conducted within six months.

Indonesian Army Chief Presented Military Award

BK3011134791 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 30 Nov 91 p 2

[Text] The Indonesian Army Chief of Staff, General Edi Surajat, yesterday became the first foreigner to be conferred one of Singapore's most prestigious military awards, the Meritorious Service Medal (Military).

The award, also known as the Pingat Jasa Gemilang (Tentera), was presented to him by Defence Minister Dr Yeo Ning Hong, on behalf of President Wee Kim Wee, at the Ministry of Defence in Gombak Drive.

The award citation said that Gen Edi had been instrumental in fostering close ties between the armies of Indonesia and Singapore in his various senior appointments and from 1988 as Chief of Staff.

He has actively pursued bilateral co-operation and interaction, the citation said.

Under his leadership, the Safkar Indopura series of bilateral land exercises, aimed at strengthening ties and defence co-operation between the two armed forces, was inaugurated. "As a result of his personal keenness, the professional content has been significantly upgraded with each exercise," the citation said.

The latest exercise started on Monday [25 Nov] and ended on Thursday here. Gen Edi officiated at the closing ceremony.

The citation also said that Gen Edi's aim of fostering deep and long-lasting ties between the two armies had also led him to initiate a programme of oficer exchanges.

Intermediate-level exchanges have started and senior-level visits will begin next year. The citation added: "The warmth and close friendship prevailing between the two armies owed much to General Edi Sudrajat's enduring efforts."

The process of consultation and dialogue whichs Gen Edi encouraged had been invaluable in establishing mutual understanding and appreciation of each other's perceptions and concerns.

Among those present at the ceremony yesterday were Gen Edi's wife, Madam Lulu Lugiyati; Dr Lee Boon Yang, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Defence; Lieutenant-General Winston Choo, SAF [Singapore Armed Forces] Chief of Defence Force; and senior officers of the Indonesian and Singapore armies and the Singapore [mindef] Defence Ministry.

Earlier, Gen Edi called on Dr Yeo and Lt-Gen Choo at Mindef.

Since its inception in 1981, the Meritorious Service Medal (Military) has been presented to only one other person. Lt-Gen Choo received it from President Wee last year.

Cambodia

More Results of Attack on Khieu Samphan Viewed

Message Sent to PICC Chiefs

BK3011014591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] On 28 November 1991, Their Excellencies Khieu Samphan and Son Sen, members of the Supreme National Council [SNC], addressed a message to their excellencies, cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC], requesting for appropriate measures to ensure security for all SNC members. The following is the full text of the message:

The implementation of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement to solve the Cambodian problem politically and comprehensively has been seriously threatened by the 27 November 1991 incident in Phnom Penh. This event has prevented the SNC from functioning normally in Phnom Penh as planned as there is no security guarantee for all SNC members. Everyone knows that if the SNC cannot function, then the Paris peace agreement on Cambodia cannot be implemented because the close cooperation between the SNC and the UN preparatory group, and later on with the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, is crucial.

As signatories of the Paris agreement, we would like to request that their excellencies take appropriate measures to ensure that the Paris peace agreement on Cambodia is implemented correctly, and in particular that security is ensured for all SNC members.

We would like to take this opportunity to express thanks to their excellencies for their constant attention to defending the Paris agreement for the future of Cambodia and the Cambodian people.

Please, your excellencies, accept from us our highest consideration.

[Dated] 28 November 1991
[Signed] Khieu Samphan, SNC member
Son Sen, SNC member

Ranariddh Voices Regrets

BK0212042291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Prince Norodom Ranariddh, secretary general of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC], sent a message to His Excellency Khieu Samphan on 28 November. The message in full reads as follows:

To His Excellency Khieu Samphan, head of the party of Democratic Kampuchea [DK] and member of the SNC.

Your excellency: In response to your letter dated 28 November 1991 to the esteemed samdech, a copy of which you sent to me, I wish to inform your excellency that on behalf of the FUNCINPEC and in my own name, that we are very sad to hear about the 27 November event in Phnom Penh, a most regrettable event which seriously affects the honor and prestige of the SNC.

The incident which hurt your excellency and His Excellency Son Sen, who are both SNC members, has greatly concerned the international community because it directly affects the implementation of the peace agreement signed on 23 October 1991.

We express our full support for your excellency's appeal to the esteemed samdech calling on all sides for complete assumption of responsibility in implementing the peace plan unanimously supported by the international community.

I express my solidarity with your excellency in my capacity as a member of the SNC and as a Cambodian who wants to achieve national reconciliation.

Please, Your Excellency, accept my highest regards.

[Signed] Norodom Ranariddh.

KR Leaders, Sihanouk Meet 30 Nov

BK0112013891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1828 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Phatthaya, Thailand, Nov 30 (AFP) - Khmer Rouge [KR] leaders, who fled Phnom Penh for their lives earlier this week, told Prince Norodom Sihanouk here Saturday they would not go back to the Cambodian capital unless they received ironclad assurances for their safety from the government, Khmer Rouge officials said. [passage omitted]

Officials of the ultra-Marxist faction, the strongest to have fought Phnom Penh's Vietnam-installed government in the Cambodian civil war, said Khieu Samphan and Son Sen told Prince Sihanouk they would see what assurances the Phnom Penh government would offer during an upcoming meeting of the council in this Thai seaside resort.

Under Cambodia's United Nations-brokered peace accord, the SNC, which groups representatives of the rival Cambodian factions under the prince's neutral chairmanship, is to be headquartered in Phnom Penh.

Since it can only reach decisions by consensus, a Khmer Rouge boycott would effectively prevent it from functioning altogether and result in a serious setback in Cambodia's peace process.

The Khmer Rouge leaders met Prince Sihanouk over dinner here, shortly after the prince arrived from the Cambodian capital ahead of Tuesday's SNC discussions.

Their insistence on receiving full safety guarantees from Phnom Penh suggested that they were not completely satisfied with assurances which the prince had earlier told reporters he was bringing to them from the Phnom Penh leadership.

During a press conference following his arrival here the former Cambodian monarch had announced that he would convey to the Khmer Rouge leaders assurances from Phnom Penh strongman Chea Sim and Prime Minister Hun Sen that they would be safe if they returned to the Cambodian capital.

In an another apparent fallout of the Phnom Penh melee, Khmer Rouge ally China has postponed a planned visit to Phnom Penh December 5-6 by its Foreign Minister Qian Qichen.

Fu Xuezhang, a senior Chinese diplomat, said he had announced the postponement to Prince Sihanouk.

Fu, Beijing's representative to the SNC, said no new dates had been set. He said the decision was due to "technical reasons."

Analysts said the postponement appeared to reflect China's anger with the Phnom Penh attack on Khmer Rouge leaders.

On Friday, a commentary in the People's Daily, mouthpiece of the Chinese Communist Party, strongly suggested the attack was premeditated, saying Phnom Penh had an "unshirkable responsibility" with regards to it.

Khmer Rouge on Return Conditions

BK0312033491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0317 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Phatthaya, Thailand, Dec 3 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan said here Tuesday that measures had to be adopted for the safety of all Cambodian factions in Phnom Penh as a guarantee for a smooth functioning of an interim peace authority.

The Khmer Rouge nominal chief, who last week was forced to flee Phnom Penh after an angry mob had ransacked his headquarters and threatened to lynch him, was talking to reporters after a meeting with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the neutral head of the interim authority, the Supreme National Council (SNC).

The Khmer Rouge have set two conditions for the return to Phnom Penh of its representatives on the SNC, Khieu Samphan and Son Sen, the head of the radical Marxist guerrilla force.

It is demanding the immediate deployment of a security force of 800 United Nations troops and the return of an aide who it says is being held "hostage" by the Cambodian Government in Phnom Penh.

"What is needed are measures to guarantee that the SNC will function normally," Khieu Samphan said.

"Protection has to be secured for all (Cambodian) parties" in Phnom Penh, he added.

Both Prince Sihanouk and Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen have said that the U.N. was unlikely [to] put troops in Phnom Penh to protect the Khmer Rouge.

Khieu Samphan went into his meeting with the prince [and] with Son Sen. The discussion was held ahead of an emergency session of the SNC, which is taking place on Tuesday in this Thai seaside resort.

Under the peace treaty concluded in October in Paris by a guerrilla coalition dominated by the Khmer Rouge and the Phnom Penh government the SNC is to be headquartered in Phnom Penh and its decisions taken by consensus.

After his meeting with the Khmer Rouge leaders Prince Sihanouk immediately went into another meeting with representatives of U.N. Security Council five permanent members.

The five—the United States, China, France, Britain and the Soviet Union—brokered the Paris accord.

Their representatives made no statements to reporters as they arrived for their discussions with Prince Sihanouk.

Also attending the meeting were officials from the U.N. and Indonesia.

Indonesia is taking part in the discussions here because it co- chaired with France the Paris Cambodia conference which led to the October accord.

Saved KR Documents Discuss KPNLF

BK0312073691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0704 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] PHNOM PENH, Dec 3 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge [KR] reports obtained here show that the powerful Cambodian faction considers its smallest rival, former prime minister Son Sann's Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), of little significance in the country's peace agreement.

"If he doesn't go along with us, he can become like a small dog nipping along behind at the paws of the large dog," one document says of Son Sann. "In this event, the alliance will have three factions.

"Son Sann, whether he joins or does not join, too bad for him."

The documents were saved by AFP [AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE] journalists during the sacking of the Khmer Rouge house here last week by Cambodians infuriated by memories of the faction's bloody rule over the country from 1975 to 1979.

Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan was forced to flee to Thailand, only hours after he returned from exile for a meeting of Cambodia's Supreme National Council grouping his faction, the KPNLF, the Phnom Penh government and Prince Norodom Ranariddh's FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia].

The handwritten and typewritten correspondence in the Khmer language is addressed to "Number 87 and Phem." Number 87, according to a Khmer Rouge expert, is the code name for Pol Pot, the shadowy leader who is still thought to direct the movement though officially retired from command.

One letter dated November 20 and labeled "Message No. 5," discusses a newly-formed alliance between FUNCINPEC and the Phnom Penh government, led by Prime Minister Hun Sen.

It is signed by "Khieu," apparently the code name for Khmer Rouge military leader Son Sen who was driven out of the capital along with Khieu Samphan.

The letter recalls a meeting the previous day between Son Sen and Prince Ranariddh, son of former ruler Prince Norodom Sihanoak who stepped down as head of FUNCINPEC to become neutral leader of the SNC, in which Ranariddh explained his alliance.

"Ranariddh considers Sihanouk as the engine of a train pulling cars behind it, the Hun Sen people, the FUNCINPEC people and us," the letter says.

"As for Son Sann, if he doesn't go along with us, he can become like a small dog nipping along behind at the paws of the large dog."

"In this event, the alliance will have three factions. Son Sann, whether he joins or does not join, too bad for him."

"That means there are not four factions. The train pulls Hun Sen in the first car, Ranariddh in the second and us in the third," it reads.

The letter is written in black ink, but the names Ranariddh and Hun Sen in this passage are underlined in blue. In the margin is written, also in blue ink, "maybe prime minister!!"

The KPNLF was the smallest faction in the tripartite guerrilla coalition fighting Phnom Penh until the United Nations-brokered Paris peace agreement signed six weeks ago set up the SNC.

Son Sann, in an interview with AFP last week, said he would not join the Ranariddh-Hun Sen coalition even if invited.

"In the face of this alliance, an opposition is necessary and at the right time it will be me," he said.

Khmer Rouge leaders have steadfastly denied that Pol Pot, the infamous head of the group when more than a million people died under its rule here, has any further role in their organization.

The Khmer Rouge said in 1985 that Pol Pot and his lieutenants Ieng Sary and Ta Mok had retired from the movement to be replaced by Khieu Samphan and Son Sen.

But Cambodia analysts believe he is still in charge, from bases in western Cambodia or Thailand.

Peace Implementation 'Hampered'

BK0312073191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Station commentary: "All Cambodian People and Peace- and Justice-Loving Countries Around the World Condemn the Brutal Attack on the House in Phnom Penh of Their Excellencies Khieu Samphan and Son Sen, members of the Supreme National Council, and Demand All Sides To Strictly Abide By and Correctly and Effectively Implement the Paris Agreement"]

[Text] The brutal act committed by a small number of hoodlums in attacking the house of Their Excellencies Khieu Samphan and Son Sen, members of the Supreme National Council [SNC] with Cambodian head of state Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as chairman, in Phnom Penh on 27 November 1991 is an attempt to prevent the SNC quorum from functioning at its office in Phnom Penh in line with the agreement on ending the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia.

In a word, the thuggish alliance has openly attempted to destroy the agreement in order to avoid a return to genuine peace and security in Cambodia.

After this brutal act took place, there was a great deal of reaction from all the Cambodian people inside and outside the country and from all peace- and justice-loving countries around the world strongly condemning this brutal act and demanding that the Paris agreement on Cambodia be implemented correctly and thoroughly so that Cambodia can regain genuine independence, security, and peace with its territorial integrity.

In a joint communique issued on 28 November, 10 Cambodian associations on the European and American Continents condemned this brutal act as seriously affecting the Cambodian peace agreement.

These 10 Cambodian associations called on all sides to correctly and thoroughly implement the Paris agreement and appealed to the United Nations to quickly deploy its peacekeeping forces in Cambodia so as to assure security for all members of the SNC, with Cambodian head of state Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as the chairman, thus enabling the SNC quorum to function normally at its office in Phnom Penh.

A spokesman of the PRC Foreign Ministry also stressed clearly in a statement issued on 28 November that the violent incident that took place on 27 November in Phnom Penh has impeded the implementation of the Paris agreement, thus violating the interests of the Cambodian people.

Aside from this, there was a great deal of reaction from the Cambodian people and many other countries all holding the similar view that the incident that took place in the house of Their Excellencies Khieu Samphan and Son Sen, members of the SNC, in Phnom Penh has hampered the implementation of the Paris agreement, the restoration of peace in Cambodia, and stability in the entire Southeast Asian region.

Realizing the above serious effect, the entire Cambodian nation and people inside and outside the country as well as many countries around the world that support the Paris agreement on Cambodia have strongly condemned the brutal act of the hooligan alliance in attacking the house in Phnom Penh of Their Excellencies Khieu Samphan and Son Sen, members of the SNC, as an attempt to destroy the Paris agreement and have demanded all signatories to correctly and effectively implement this agreement so that Cambodia can regain genuine independence and peace and the entire Southeast Asian region can enjoy genuine stability.

FUNCINPEC Delegation Arrives in Phatthaya

BK0312141491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] The delegation of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC] led by Prince Norodom Ranariddh, FUNCINPEC general secretary and member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], arrived in Phatthaya, Thailand, on the evening of Monday, yesterday, to attend the Cambodian SNC meeting, to be held on Tuesday 3 December.

The FUNCINPEC delegation led by Prince Norodom Ranariddh to attend the SNC meeting in Phatthaya comprises seven members including His Excellency [H.E.] Ambassador (Ieng Kiet); Prince Norodom Sereivut; H.E. Ambassador (Asarik); Prince Sisowath Khatteya; Ek Sereivat; Veng Sereivut; and Miss Pok Bopha Marina.

KPNLF Delegation Arrives in Phatthaya 2 Dec

BK0312134891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] The Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] delegation led by His Excellency [H.E.] Son Sann, KPNLF president and member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], arrived in Phatthaya, Thailand, in the evening of Monday, yesterday [2 December], to attend the Cambodian SNC meeting, to be held on Tuesday 3 December, today.

The KPNLF delegation led by H.E. Son Sann to attend the SNC meeting in Phatthaya comprises: Ieng Mouli, general secretary of the KPNLF Executive Committe and SNC member; Son Soubert, delegate of the KPNLF Executive Committee in charge of foreign affairs; Penn Thol, delegate of the KPNLF Executive Committee in charge of economy and member of the SNC Secretariat; Sieng Lapresse, ambassador representing the KPNLF at the United Nations; Pol Ham, delegate of the KPNLF Executive Committee in charge of the Information Ministry; Meas Chanleap, ambassador to Japan; Sangva De Lopez, chief of protocol and chief of staff of the KPNLF; and (Phot Ali), personal secretary of H.E. Son Sann, KPNLF president.

It is to be specified that before arriving in Phatthaya, Thailand, on Monday evening yesterday, H.E. Son Sann was received by the Thai prime minister who hosted a reception at Phitsanulok house in Bangkok.

3 Dec SNC Meeting in Thailand Reported

BK0312113591 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 3 Dec 91

["News flash"]

[Text] On 3 December, at 0900, Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], met with representatives of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC], the representative of the UN secretary general, and representatives of the Paris conference cochairmen, namely France and Indonesia.

Afterward, at 1030 GMT, the samdech met with all SNC members until 1230. These two meetings focused on how to get the SNC functioning quickly at its headquarters in Phnom Penh. This issue concerns the security of all SNC members, particularly the Khmer Rouge leaders. After a long discussion, all parties agreed to quickly get the SNC functioning in order to implement the agreement already signed in Paris on 23 October. Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Cambodian SNC, said he would push the secretariat to start working when he returned to Phnom Penh on 5 December.

The Khmer Rouge side, which yesterday set two conditions—first, protection from 800 UN troops, and second, the return of (Krun Tieng), a member of its delegation who was missing during the other day's incident—has dropped these two conditions.

However, this group seems to have not made any clear decision on its return to Phnom Penh in the near future.

His Excellency Hun Sen, on behalf of the State of Cambodia's Government, has solemnly affirmed that efforts will be made to ensure security and safety for all delegations of SNC members, particularly those from the Khmer Rouge, by specifying that accommodation and security measures already have been taken.

At 1500 on the afternoon of the same day, the samdech will continue leading the meeting in order to make final decisions. This meeting will be held at the same place, the samdech's residence, with the participation of all SNC members, representatives of the five permanent members of the UNSC, the representative of the UN secretary general, and representatives of the two cochairmen of the Paris international conference, namely France and Indonesia.

Sihanouk Wants 'Good Relations' With Vietnam

BK3011074791 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0245 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 29—Prince Sihanouk said here Thursday [28 November] that he wanted good relations with Vietnam and other neighbouring countries.

Prince Sihanouk has led the SNC [Supreme National Council] since August after his resignation as president of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea and head of FUNCINPEC.

The prince, who yesterday received a credential letter from Tran Huy Chuong, Vietnamese ambassador to the SNC, wished the ties of friendship and cooperation between Cambodia and Vietnam further strengthening and development.

He said that the SNC and himself would do their best to provide favourable conditions for the Vietnamese ambassador to the SNC to fulfil his mission here.

Prince Sihanouk, who arrived here on November 14 to preside over an abortive SNC meeting due to a violent demonstration against the return of Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan Wednesday, highly valued the spirit of national reconciliation achieved between the north and the south of Vietnam.

Tran Huy Chuong, director of the Foreign Ministry's Southeast Asia Department, has been named as Vietnamese ambassador to the SNC in Phnom Penh after Ngo Dien, who had served as ambassador to the State of Cambodia for the the past 13 years, ended his term and left Phnom Penh the day before Prince Sihanouk's return.

Chuong, 62, a career diplomat, served as ambassador to Indonesia from 1984 to 1990, and earlier as counseller of the Vietnamese Embassy in the Philippines.

SRV Youth Journal Interviews Sihanouk, Hun Sen

BK2411103991 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 21 Nov 91

[TUOI TRE VIETNAM [Vietnamese Youth] journal's correspondent interview with Prince Sihanouk and Chairman Hun Sen in Phnom Penh—read by announcer; date not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] Esteemed Prince Sihanouk, what is your impression on Cambodia today?

[Sihanouk] I am moved and very happy to be close with my countrymen in Cambodia. I will do my best to serve my fatherland and people. I hope I will be able to live in my country with the Cambodian people until I die.

[Correspondent] Would you please explain the purpose of your upcoming visit to Vietnam?

[Sihanouk] My intention is to strengthen the friendly relations of Cambodia with its three neighbors. I will visit not only Vietnam, but also Laos and Thailand. Peace, independence, and stability in Cambodia depend on the relations of Cambodia with these three neighboring countries. As a result, it is necessary for Cambodia to normalize relations with Laos and to do its best to promote this relationship.

[Correspondent] What is your policy on the Vietnamese residents in Cambodia?

[Sihanouk] The most important thing is that there now are no signs of the Vietnamese military in Cambodia. As a result, there is no reason to create problems for honest Vietnamese residents in Cambodia. When I was chief of state during the 60's, I did my best to protect the Vietnamese. Conflict with Vietnamese residents in Cambodia occurred only under the Lon Nol regime and the following cruel massacre which is well-known to everyone. With my return, I will continue my policy of serving and defending my countrymen while protecting foreigners living in Cambodia

[Correspondent] What are the most important tasks for Cambodia at present?

[Sihanouk] My country has undergone many years of war. As a result, we first need national reconciliation and concord. [end Sihanouk]

The TUOI TRE VIETNAM correspondent also interviewed Chairman Hun Sen on some issues as follows:

[Correspondent] Dear Mr. Chairman, would you please give your views on Vietnamese residents in Cambodia?

[Hun Sen] This is a historical issue. Besides the Vietnamese, there are also Chinese living in Cambodia. At present, there are more than 100,000 Vietnamese residents compared to 500,000 before 1970. I do not support any policy aimed at expelling foreigners from Cambodia. I think foreigners have the right to live here and to work in accordance with their capability.

[Correspondent] Will the Phnom Penh administration be able to provide security for the SNC members?

[Hun Sen] We will do our best. However, people have requested to hold demonstrations against the Khmer Rouge. Nevertheless, it is our duty to also protect the Khmer Rouge in the SNC. If I allow the people to demonstrate, they will go directly to where the Khmer Rouge delegation is staying to voice their opposition. In that situation, violence may occur. However, if demonstrations take place and we use the police to disperse the protestors, then we will be denounced for violating human rights. Thus, we are in a very difficult position. I have called on all Cambodians to be patient and to let all SNC members to come and work in Cambodia first.

[Correspondent] Will the historical places such as the Tuol Sleng be closed in the future?

[Hun Sen] Those who want to close the Tuol Sleng and other historical places where the genocidal crimes of the Khmer Rouge are on display are the ones who want to reimpose the policy of the Khmer Rouge. History is history. No one can deny what has happened in history.

Leaders Send Greetings to Laos on National Day

BK0212103591 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] On the 16th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], Their Excellencies Heng Samrin, honorary chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee and chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of State; Chea Sim, chairman of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of both the State of Cambodia's National Assembly and the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense; and Hun Sen, vice chairman of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers, addressed a message of greetings to Their Excellencies Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] and president of the LPDR; Nouhak Phomsovan, chairman of the LPDR's Supreme People's Council; and Khamtai Siphandon, LPDR prime minister. Here is the essence of the message:

On the 16th founding anniversary of the LPDR, on behalf of the CPP, National Assembly, the State of Cambodia's Government, and the Cambodian people nationwide, we would like to convey our warmest congratulations and best wishes to the LPRP Central Committee, the Lao SPC, the LPDR Government, and the Lao people of all nationalities.

We would like to express our high appreciation of the achievements over the last 16 years of the multinational Lao people under the LPRP led by His Excellency Kaysone Phomvihan. These achievements, produced by the great sacrifice of the Lao people, have vigorously contributed to the building and consolidation of a democratic regime based on the unity of all social strata and all nationalities, with a market economy that will ensure glory and development for the people's living standards.

We firmly believe that in the new situation—in which the light of peace and national reconciliation is nearly in the hands of the Cambodian people through the homecoming of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk as chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, head of the State of Cambodia, and father of the nation—the Cambodian- Lao relations of friendship and solidarity and cooperation will continue to expand.

We would like to wish Their Excellencies and the fraternal Lao people good health and new and greater victories in the implementation of the resolutions of the LPRP's fifth party congress, which are aimed at building a peaceful, independent, democratic, unified, and prosperous Laos with an increased role and greater prestige in the international community.

Hor Namhong Greets Lao Counterpart

BK0212100191 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] On the 16th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], Hor Namhong, the State of Cambodia's foreign minister, sent a message of greetings to Phoun Sipaseut, LPDR foreign minister. The message says in essence:

On the 16th founding anniversary of the LPDR, I would like to convey to you, and through you to the cadres of the Foreign Ministry, sincere greetings, warm congratulations, and best wishes.

Over the past 16 years, under the correct leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP], the fraternal Lao people of all nationalities, imbued with traditional heroism, have scored great and remarkable successes in advancing Laos to peace, independence, democracy, national union, and prosperity, and in contributing to the defense of peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the world.

I firmly believe that, as peace and national reconciliation are being restored in Cambodia, the relations of friendship and solidarity, and cooperation between Cambodia and Laos will continue to develop forever.

I would like to wish Your Excellency and your colleagues good health and new successes in the implementation of the resolutions of the LPRP's fifth party congress.

Sihanouk Receives New Australian Envoy 29 Nov

BK3011072091 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0447 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 30 Nov (SPK)—Australian Ambassador John Scott Halloway presented in Phnom Penh on Friday his credentials to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC).

Prince Sihanouk praised the Australian Government for nominating an ambassador to Cambodia to replace its special representative acredited two weeks earlier to the SNC. He highly appreciated Australia's initiative in the search for a political solution to the Cambodian problem. He affirmed that despite demonstrations against the arrival of Khieu Samphan, he will always respect the Paris peace agreement and has convened an SNC meeting in Phatthaya [words indistinct] he expressed the hope that the (?following meeting) will be held in Phnom Penh.

The prince reaffirmed his neutral position although there is an alliance between the Cambodian People's Party and FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] now led by his son Ranariddh. [Words indistinct] France, the DPRK, the United States, Great Britain, Canada, [words indistinct] Australia [words indistinct] accredited to the SNC.

Hun Sen Receives Cambodia-Born Chinese 29 Nov

BK0112080891 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] On the morning of 29 November at the Council of Ministers office, His Excellency Hun Sen, vice chairman of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee and chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers, received in audience a delegation of Cambodia-born Chinese residents in France led by Mr. (Trinh Huy).

The group presented a fund of $60,000 from Chinese residents in France to His Excellency Hun Sen as assistance to our Cambodian victims of the floods in the last rainy season. Moreover, another fund of $20,000 donated by the delegation members themselves will be used to build a Chinese school in Phnom Penh.

On the occasion, His Excellency Hun Sen warmly welcomed the delegation for its visit to Phnom Penh and considered Cambodia the homeland of the Cambodia-born Chinese residents in France too. He briefed the group on the situation in a number of flood-stricken areas where agriculture production works were seriously affected. His Excellency Hun Sen pledged to hand over the aid directly to our people so as to ensure high efficiency.

For his part, Mr. (Trinh Huy) profoundly thanked His Excellency Hun Sen for having spent his valuable time to receive the delegation with the spirit of the closest solidarity.

FUNCINPEC To Retain Resistance Partners

BK3011090991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] The office of the personal representative of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk in Cambodia and Asia underlined that the alliance between the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC] and the Phnom Penh faction will not deviate from the framework of the UN peace plan signed in Paris on 23 October.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh, secretary general of the FUNCINPEC and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, said the alliance between the FUNCINPEC party and the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] of the Phnom Penh side does not mean that the FUNCINPEC wants to discard the other two resistance parties, its allies during the joint battle to chase the Vietnamese enemy aggressors out of Cambodia.

On 28 November at the FUNCINPEC's military base, the prince stated that, despite the FUNCINPEC's alliance with the CPP, this does not mean that the two parties will discard their original characters and merge into a sole party or will have a shared name. The prince pointed out that the FUNCINPEC party—which used to be under the leadership of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, who is at present the top leader—will maintain its policy and objectives at all times.

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's personal office disclosed that, with the alliance between the two parties, the FUNCINPEC intends to abide by the policy of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the SNC and head of state, who has been striving to achieve a national reunification. With regard to reports that the creation of a coalition government between the FUNCINPEC and CPP parties is aimed at forming a new cabinet, with Prince Norodom Ranariddh to be possibly named as a deputy prime minister, the office said the FUNCINPEC party had not yet discussed the positions that the FUNCINPEC will have in the new government.

FUNCINPEC-CPP Alliance 'Simply' for Polls

BK0212011691 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Dec 91 p 6

[By Anurat Maniphan in Phatthaya]

[Text] Cambodia's Prince Norodom Ranariddh last night defended his alliance with the Phnom Penh government his resistance party fought for 12 years as simply a measure to win the general election.

"Our alliance is not at all against the peace agreement," he said shortly after arriving here for dinner with his father, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the Cambodian head of state.

"The alliance is not against any Cambodian parties. We simply want to win the elections," Prince Ranariddh told reporters.

Prince Ranariddh, as leader of FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia], and Phnom Penh prime minister Hun Sen, representing the Cambodian People's Party (CPP), formalised a political alliance on November 20.

Five days later, the armies of the two parties entered into what the Prince described as "a gentlemen's agreement".

The alliance did not go against the peace agreement signed in Paris on October 28, the prince maintained, arguing that the document did not prevent any Cambodian parties from entering into an electoral alliance.

The fact the two had entered into such an alliance demonstrated they wanted the United Nations to organise general elections, he said.

"I think it is very understandable that we want to win any elections."

The prince said the main terms of the alliance were support for Prince Sihanouk's candidature as president of Cambodia, to avoid criticism of each other during electoral campaigns, to cooperate in the future national assembly and to form a coalition government.

Prince Ranariddh said the pledge to support his father's candidature as president was "in the first paragraph" of the alliance.

He said the military agreement had improved the situation on the ground.

Fighting has continued after the voluntary ceasefire was signed in June, and he cited recent clashes in Kompong Thom. FUNCINPEC will play an "intermediary role" should there be a dispute between Hun Sen's party and the Khmer Rouge and Son Sann's Khmer People's National Liberation Front, he said.

But he denied suggestions that FUNCINPEC would play a security role.

FUNCINPEC wants to take charge of "technical", non-political ministries unrelated to security matters.

The group wants to improve the "general conditions of living" and rehabilitate key services and public works such as roads, electricity, water supplies and telecommunications.

FUNCINPEC will also participate in public health but will not share in political ministries like those of interior and defence, he said.

Deputy Defense Minister Meets UN Military Team

BK0212082191 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] On the morning of 29 November at the military foreign relations office, Senior Lieutenant General Ke Kimyan, standing member [samachoek achentrai] of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee, first deputy defense minister, and chairman of the State of Cambodia's military coordination committee, held talks with Timothy Dibuama, UN special representative in charge of military affairs, and his colleagues.

Ke Kimyan explained and showed on the map all the positions of the State of Cambodia's army as well as their plans. He also talked about a number of positions of the State of Cambodia's forces which have been harassed and shelled by the other side. He added that the forces of the State of Cambodia's side are always ready to cooperate with UNAMIC [UN Advance Mission in Cambodia] for the success of this UN advance mission.

Timothy Dibuama expressed his most profound thanks to the State of Cambodia's side for providing all kinds of facilities to his mission. He added that after studying the maps, field inspection will be carried out on Monday and he hoped that this mission would be successful.

UN Development Program Resumes Activities

BK0212103091 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0120 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 1—The United Nations Development Program [UNDP] in Phnom Penh became a full-fledged UNDP field office after Mr. Edouard A. Wattez, the resident representative, presented letters of agreement here Wednesday to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia.

"For the UNDP, this is a major step in the acceleration of our assistance programmes to Cambodia. We have some [words indistinct] a press communique released the same day by the UNDP.

In the transitional period prior to the UN-supervised elections in Cambodia, the UNDP will be involved in the funding, monitoring and implementation of humanitarian assistance projects, seem [as received] schemes for the reintegration of war-affected populations, rehabilitation of infrastructure [words indistinct]. Mr. W. Draper, UNDP administrator, signed in New York on Sept. 17, 1991, two projects worth 12.4 million U.S. dollars in response to the SNC's request to the secretary general of the United Nations for humanitarian assistance and professional training for all Cambodians.

UNDP had a resident representative in Cambodia until early 1975 when the Khmer Rouge took power and closed down all diplomatic and foreign missions.

UNDP operations recommenced temporarily during the 1979-82 period with 32.2 million dollars in emergency assistance to Cambodia. In October 1990, UNDP returned to Cambodia in the form of a liaison office.

UNESCO Office Inaugurated in Phnom Penh

BK0212041091 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] On the evening of 29 November, the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural organization, UNESCO, solemnly inaugurated its office.

Attending the ceremony were His Excellency [H.E.] Frederico Mayor, UNESCO director general; Yos Son, member of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee and education minister; Hang Chuon, minister of information and culture; deputy ministers of various ministries; representatives of international organizations and the UN Advance Mission; their excellencies ambassadors and charge d'affaires of various friendly countries accredited to Cambodia.

The UNESCO office has been restored with the assistance of the UN Development Program and (?UNICEF). H.E. Frederico Mayor expressed his deep joy and welcomed those attending the inauguration. He said the opening of the office in Cambodia is aimed at restoring the infrastructure, particularly the educational, scientific, cultural, and sociological sectors, that has been damaged by the war over the past more than 20 years, including the Angkor Wat temple to its glory. H.E. Frederico then cut the ribbon symbolizing the opening of the office.

Hun Sen Holds Talks With UNESCO Director

BK0112070891 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] On the morning of 29 November at the Council of Ministers office, His Excellency Hun Sen, vice chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee and chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers, granted an audience to a UNESCO delegation led by its deputy director general [as heard] Frederico Mayor.

On the occasion, His Excellency Hun Sen briefed the guests about a number of consequences, which are the legacy of the devastation caused by the Pol Pot regime, currently faced by some institutions. Now, those establishments, including the teaching school in Battambang Province and the Phnom Penh university, are in dire need of assistance if they are to be renovated. Apart from this, the educational system is at present short of everything, such as funds for supporting foreign professors teaching at various universities, technical equipment, and so on. In particular, more new school buildings are needed to meet the demands of students.

In his reply, Frederico Mayor expressed regret at the destruction in Cambodia. He gave positive answers to every proposal presented by His Excellency Hun Sen and pledged to provide aid worth $2.4 million to assist the educational sector in the country.

Education Minister Receives UNESCO Team

BK0212051791 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] On the morning of 29 November at the office of the Education Ministry, Yos Son, member of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee and education minister, received a UNESCO delegation led by Frederico Mayor, director general of this organization.

Speaking on this occasion, Yos Son briefed the delegation on a number of problems in the field of education in Cambodia, which has to be fully restored since 1979. He further said during the four-year period of the Pol Pot regime, 75 percent of lecturers and teachers were killed by the Polpotists; 90 percent of students and 60 percent of pupils were also eliminated by the Polpotists.

Furthermore, the minister told his guests that despite all this, over the past 13 years, the education sector has been firmly restored. At present, this ranges from kindergartens to higher education establishments. He added that along with this development, the educational sector still faces many problems which require assistance such as technical and scientific equipment, publication of textbooks and documents, and reforms of secondary and primary curricula.

Afterward, Frederico Mayor promised to provide maximum assistance to the proposals relating to the educational sector and also to solve problems concerning the work of UNESCO in Cambodia.

UNESCO Delegation Leaves Phnom Penh 29 Nov

BK0312125891 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0422 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 3 Dec (SPK)—Mr. Frederico Mayor, director general of UNESCO, and his colleagues on Friday, 29 November, left Phnom Penh at the end of an official three-day visit to Cambodia.

The UNESCO delegation paid a courtesy call on Prince Norodom Sihanouk during which Mr. Mayor handed him the Convention on World Heritage, which, after Cambodia has signed it, will allow UNESCO to restore and preserve the Angkor temples.

At the inaugural ceremony of the UNESCO office in Phnom Penh, Mr. Mayor stressed that with the Cambodian peace process, UNESCO could fulfill its official mission in Cambodia aimed at expanding and protecting Cambodian culture.

Mr. Mayor was received by Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers and member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council. He met with Hor Namhong, foreign minister; Yos Son, education minister; and Hang Chuon, information and culture minister.

Mr. Mayor visited educational establishments, the museum, the cultural and art center in Phnom Penh, and temples in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province.

Chea Sim Speaks at 2 Dec KUFNCD Meeting

BK0312085791 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Speech by Chea Sim, "chairman of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee and chairman of both the National Assembly and the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense," at 2 December meeting in Phnom Penh to mark the 13th founding anniversary of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense—recorded]

[Text] Greetings to respected clergy, honored local and foreign guests, Their Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, and beloved compatriots:

On 2 December 1991, the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense [KUFNCD] is 13 years old. We are meeting here in a happy atmosphere and with a spirit of solidarity and national union to movingly celebrate the 13th founding anniversary of the KUFNCD, which is the source of the entire Cambodian people's rebirth and the beginning of the rebuilding of our society and nation.

The 13th anniversary of our front today coincides with a time when our entire nation is happily welcoming the light of peace after going along a tortuous and complex path in the past more than two decades. We are now in a new phase of national unification. This has restored our national identity and honor in the international arena. Our nation in particular is very proud with the homecoming of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and wife to our beloved motherland. In this noble and precious cause, the respected samdech father of the nation is the cool shade on which all Cambodians pin their most profound hope to build great national union forces and move toward peace and progress.

On this fine occasion, on behalf of the people nationwide, the party, government, and the front National Council, may I be allowed to express most profound respect to the samdech, an outstanding leader who has sacrificed mental and physical strength for the cause of the people and nation. The party, government, and the front national council, like the people nationwide, consider that the samdech has always been Cambodia's head of state and that no individual or regime in Cambodia's history can reject. In the future in particular, the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and the State of Cambodia fully support the samdech's (?candidacy) in the general elections to choose Cambodia's head of state or president. The CPP and the State of Cambodia have no other candidates apart from the samdech for this position. We appeal to the entire people to provide support and do whatever they can to make the samdech head of state or president in the first mandate.

Along with this, on behalf of the party, government, and the front National Council, I would like to express sincere admiration for cadres, workers, employees, peasants, intellectuals, monks, ethnic groups, the Cambodian people nationwide, and compatriot Cambodian residents abroad for having firmly united in the front's great national union and for deploying moral, physical, material, and intellectual efforts to overcome obstacles to serve the cause of building and defending the motherland and safeguarding social and national gains until achieving great victories in various fields. This is really worthy of pride.

On the occasion marking this glorious anniversary, we remember the noble deeds of heroic children [words indistinct] to express most profound respect for the deeds and the heroic nationalist model of all these patriotic children and engrave it in the golden page of our Cambodian motherland.

Clergy, Their Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, and beloved compatriots: 2 December 1978 was the day when Cambodian forces and souls were revived. It was on 2 December that 13 years ago the souls of all the Cambodian people, combined with the anger and patriotic spirit, and national conscience of the oppressed and suffering Cambodian people in and outside the country got together and firmly and resolutely united to set up a national liberation political body under the label of Kampuchean National United Front for National Salvation [KNUFNS] in order to eliminate the danger from the past.

Through lessons from the bitter period of 1975-1978, we can more clearly see the noble and invaluable deeds of the CPP [words indistinct] rallying the great national union forces of the entire nation, motherland, and the Cambodian people and freeing them from the dictatorial regime and the dark era of the danger from the past on 7 January 1979.

Since then, over the next 13 years, the 11-point policy of the KNUFNS had been implemented in accordance with each phase of the country's development. This national movement to defend the motherland and protect social and national gains to prevent the recurrence of the danger from the past has been contributed to and assisted by a multitude of our Cambodian people and has achieved successive results. State authorities and a new regime have been built and developed and are administering the state and society nationwide. The people have gradually understood their duty and exercized their right to be the master of their own destiny with a responsible spirit. The new way of thinking and way of life are taking roots in society and the nation.

Reality has confirmed that our social life in every field, from cities to rural areas, has been revived and continues to develop. The people have been granted all kinds of rights and freedom, including respect of human rights, religious faith, interests, ownership, honor, and dignity. National traditions and customs are blooming again. To this day, the firm confidence in one's own force has been gradually consolidated. The spirit of responsibility has been heightened. The people have more clearly realized their noble duty and the new situation of national unification.

In the current phase, our people continue to shoulder a number of problems resulting from the serious destruction by the dangers of the past and the consequences of two decades of war. Despite this, all of us are appropriately proud with a brilliant spirit in the task of building and defending the country and nation. The entire world has acknowledged that this is a miraculous rebirth of our people.

Their Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, and beloved compatriots:

The evolution of the country and nation over the past 13 years takes place in a situation full of difficulties and sacrifices. During this period, we continue to make efforts to prevent all forces that attempt to again push our people toward a genocidal precipice, which is opposed by mankind the world over.

Thanks to unity around the CPP, the spirit of 2 December has been consolidated and revived within the nation's soul. This has rallied a mighty and resolute force fighting to defend our (?rights). Our Cambodian people are very grateful to the entire international community for their active contribution to the process of solving the Cambodian problem through peaceful means using negotiations and the international conference as a means to put out the fire of a chronic war which has dragged on for over (?20) years. The tireless efforts of the UN Secretary General, the permanent members of the UN Security Council, the cochairmen of the Paris international conference, and countries inside and outside the region are important contributions for which the Cambodian people are very grateful. Through the signing of the peace agreement on 23 October 1991 in Paris, the light of peace has, more than any other time, clearly emerged.

Most importantly, we are comforted and have firm confidence in Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], who certainly will continue his royal noble mission so that all clauses of the Paris agreement are correctly implemented to ensure the people's rights, freedom, and legitimate rights, create a neutral and just atmosphere for the forthcoming general and free elections, and ensure our national independence and sovereignty. We certainly want peace in the country and the region. We have no interest in prolonging the war in the country or waging war against any countries. We have put forward an unprecedented six-point policy. Since August 1977, we have stated and firmly implemented a policy of national union to find peace for our nation and people.

In this sense, the front national council and our entire people welcome the alliance between the CPP and FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], which is an excellent model of national union in this new and historic phase. It is also concrete evidence in the rallying of great national union forces.

Therefore, our fine duty at the moment is to continue to hold aloft the banner of national independence and great national union aimed at rallying extensive forces of the masses, people, ethnic groups, and all strata of society inside and outside the country to vigorously contribute to the cause of defending the nation and social and national gains and safeguarding the Cambodian people's rebirth. This is aimed at pooling material, human, and intellectual resources to restore the Cambodian economy, society, and nation.

Along with this, we should continue to hold aloft the banner of international solidarity and strive to win sympathy and assistance of friendly countries and the international community for the Cambodian people's just cause to struggle.

To successfully proceed with national union and to reach the goal of peace and national independence, to rally a powerful and united force to serve the above task, and build a combined force to prevent all attempts to return to the dangers of the past, I appeal to compatriots to support the already-signed Paris agreement on Cambodia. Because only by implementing this agreement can a genuinely peaceful solution for our country be achieved. Therefore, the presence of Khmer Rouge leaders as SNC members in Phnom Penh is something which cannot be avoided in the process of implementing this agreement.

Based on this spirit, found in the vigorous demonstrations by the masses and people against the presence of Khmer Rouge leaders in Phnom Penh on 27 November 1991, the CPP, the State of Cambodia's Government, and our front profoundly understand the anger of our compatriots and the bitter experience of the past.

However, with a spirit of implementing the peace agreement, which is the only way to bring peace to the country and nation, and in our capacity as host responsible for the safety of the Cambodian SNC in carrying out its task, the party, government, and front insistently appeal to compatriots to be calm and cooperate with our state authorities to absolutely ensure social order. This is to contribute to making the peace process, under the lofty leadership of our samdech euv [Sihanouk's popular title] and the UN asistance, successful and achieve the definitive goal—namely peace for Cambodia, which is our common desire.

Therefore, violent demonstrations at a time when the peace process is proceeding [words indistinct] is not a good measure to prevent the danger of the past. This can be done only through democratic elections and a practice of the Buddhist teaching: eliminate a bad deed with a good one.

Proselytize those in the Khmer Rouge ranks; make them see the right path, abandon grudges and revenge, return to live peacefully with society and the nation, and love one another. This way the country and nation can develop and make progress. Moreover, they should fulfill their duty as awakened citizens and abide by the state laws to be worthy of a nation possessing a glorious civilization. Actively carry out production work and expand the spirit of practicing thrift. Continue the tradition and consolidate solidarity with peace- and justice-loving people the world over.

Compatriot intellectuals should make efforts and pledge to increase unity among intellectuals and widely open [words indistinct] the country and nation are facing in order to [words indistinct].

Buddhists and believers of other faiths should heighten nationalist conscience and love for the motherland by using good religious teaching to educate disciples and perpetuate the nation's long-existing good customs. Compatriots in ethnic groups should continue the tradition to struggle, firmly unite, and be loyal to the front's ranks and the CPP. It is important to build a life appropriate to the development of society. Actively carry out duties to develop networks to defend villages and communes and safeguard social and national gains.

Based on the policy of liberalized economy, compatriot workers, peasants, artisans, and traders should continue to produce and earn a living with a responsible and honest spirit to restore the economy. This is in order to improve living standards and social well-being. Youths, students, and pupils should make further efforts to increase their knowledge so as to become the main pillars of the country and nation and contribute and assume the task of building and defending our Angkor motherland in the future. Compatriot Cambodians living abroad, please return to the motherland and make maximum contributions to rebuild the country and nation, which have gone through a dark era lasting over two decades.

Clergy, Their Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen [words indistinct]: On this solemn occasion I would like to express most sincere thanks to international public opinion for providing assistance and support and for searching for measures and formula to prevent the recurrence of the danger of the past in Cambodia. As always, the Cambodian people have no other desire than to live in peace to build their new society as an independent, peaceful, permanently neutral, progressive, and prosperous Cambodia.

Under the light of the 2 December spirit, we have discarded the danger of the past on 7 January 1979 and turned a new golden page in the history of our country and nation. This is a new phase of the rebirth of society, nation, and our people. It is also a major phase in national unification. We, the current generation of the Cambodian people, have a very high responsibility toward the destiny of the motherland and the future of our next generation. We have gone through an ocean of blood and tears and heaps of bones. We absolutely have to prevent our nation and future successors from falling again into this disaster.

In this sense, the 2 December spirit has eternal value for everyone of us who have to remember it and be vigilant. Therefore, we have to heighten our awakened spirit and remember the spirit of 2 December, which is the symbol of the spirit of struggle and national solidarity. This is the source and a decisive factor of our victory.

Finally, on behalf of the CPP, the State of Cambodia's Government, and the KUFNCD National Council, I would like to wish all the best to the presidium, Their Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, and all compatriots. May you enjoy the five Buddhist blessings. [applause]

Radio-TV Official Marks Networks' Anniversaries

BK0312133791 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Statement by Van Sun-heng, deputy director general of the Voice of the Cambodian People Radio Network, and the Cambodian Television Network, marking the radio's 13th anniversary and the television's eighth anniversary—date not given; recorded]

[Text] My respects to all venerable Buddhist monks, ladies, gentlemen, and dear friends: The third of December 1991 marks the 13th anniversary of our Voice of the Cambodian People Radio Network [VOCPRN]. On the same day, the Cambodian Television Network [CTN] is also eight years old. Thirteen years for the radio and eight years for the television are quite short periods of time compared to the radio and television of other countries in the world.

In the 13 years of our radio's development and the eight years of our television's development, our Cambodian motherland went through a phase of no war and no peace and experienced an economic blockade at a time when the country had to be restored and rebuilt from scratch following the liberation of the land and people from the catastrophe of the Pol Pot regime. However, under the leadership of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and the Government of the State of Cambodia [SOC] and thanks to the sense of patriotism, industriousness, ingenuity, and initiatives of the cadres, personnel, and workers toiling hard at the General Department of the VOCPRN, the VOCPRN and CTN have succeeded in making an appropriate contribution in their capacity as propagandists in spreading and reflecting the policy of the party and state among the layers of the masses, thus creating a great force of single-minded solidarity and single-bodied unity around the CPP and the Government of the SOC.

Reviewing the achievements of the past 13 years, we feel very proud of the fact that from scratch we have arrived at a stage in which we are in possession of an adequate material basis to fulfill our work. We have progressed from a stage in which we could broadcast only an hour of programming daily to the present stage in which we can do so for nearly 10 hours daily, and from a stage in which we broadcast only in the national language to the present stage in which we are broadcasting in five foreign languages. Friendly listeners from the five continents seem very impressed by our transmissions considering the regular flow of mail to our station.

As for our television, it has made similar achievements. Eight years ago we could produce very few programs in black and white only. At present, we have many programs in excellent color.

Ladies, gentlemen, and dear friends, the achievements recorded by the VOCPRN and CTN cannot be separated from the correct and wise leadership of the CPP and the effective assistance and support of the Government of the SOC. Bilateral cooperation between the General Department of the VOCPRN and the the concerned bodies of friendly countries constitutes an equally important factor in the development of our radio and television. Moreover, the moral and material assistance of the central, provincial, and municipal state institutions, of the colleagues, and of all dear friends from all circles also effectively contribute to the success of our radio and television.

I take the opportunity of this precious occasion on behalf of the General Department and responsible officials of the entire General Department of the VOCPRN to express thanks to all ladies and gentlemen who are our colleagues, and to friendly listeners in all circles for giving our radio and television strong support and fraternal considerations. It is true that because of some subjective and objective shortcomings both the radio and television have so far not yet been fully able to meet the demands of our listeners and viewers throughout the country as the reception of our radio and television broadcasts in some localities has remained impossible or unclear at best. This problem is the object of the attention paid by the CPP as well as the SOC Government concerning the project for future augmentation of both the radio and television transmission power.

Venerable monks, dear ladies and gentlemen, the 13th anniversary of the VOCPRN and the eighth anniversary of the CTN take place at a time when our beautiful land of Angkor is going through a transitional period following the signing of the peace agreement in Paris on 23 October 1991. The celebration of this year's radio and television anniversaries is occurring at a time when venerated Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and His Royal Consort, together with the rest of the ropyal family, have returned to the motherland in order to carry out the precious royal crusade of reconciling the nation and bringing peace and happiness to the country. For this reason, the VOCPRN and CTN have made themselves ready to contribute through their lines of duty to the implementation of the peace agreement on Cambodia aimed at ending the conflict and bringing peace and happiness to the motherland.

In conclusion, on behalf of all personalities attached to the General Department of the VOCPRN, I wish Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and His Royal Consort longevity in order to heed the royal mission of developing the Cambodian motherland toward prosperity. I wish all venerable monks the best of health in order to carry the religion of our Lord Buddha to the year 5,000. I wish all ladies, gentlemen, and friends the best of health. May you unite as one to successfully implement the peace agreement of 23 October 1991.

Indonesia

Foreign Minister on Attack on Khmer Rouge Leader

BK3011102291 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0826 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Caracas, Nov 30 (ANTARA)—Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas hoped that the attack against Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan such as reported by the press from Phnom Penh would not hamper the Cambodian peace process based on the Paris accord.

The minister told Indonesian reporters here on Friday that he had contacted the French Foreign Minister—in their capacity as co-chairmen of the Paris conference on Cambodia—to hold talks in Bangkok with the Cambodian representatives, Prince Sihanouk and the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC).

If the two co-chairmen could not come at the meeting, they will send their representatives, Alatas said.

Reports from Phnom Penh said that Khieu Samphan had been attacked by a group of Cambodians at his villa in Phnom Penh on Wednesday, only several hours after he arrived in Phnom Penh from Bangkok to take part in the Cambodian peace efforts such as outlined by the Paris accord.

As the result of the incident, Khieu Samphan and his delegates returned to Bangkok, and he had to be treated at a hospital.

Two U.S. Journalists Blacklisted Over E. Timor

BK0312114691 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1028 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 3 (OANA/ANTARA)—The Indonesian Government has blacklisted two U.S. journalists for alleged implication in the November 12 incident in Dili, Director-General of Immigration Roni Sikap Sinuraya told the press Tuesday.

The director-general said the two American journalists blacklisted by the immigration office are Allan Yoseph Nairn and Ami Goodman [names as received].

Even though the two journalists are blacklisted, the Indonesian Government does not ban foreign journalists from entering the country, including East Timor province, he added.

Speaking to the press after attending a plenary session of the House of Representatives (DPR) which discussed a bill on immigration, the director-general said that the two American journalists were blacklisted for security reason because besides they are suspected of involvement in the Dili incident, they also abused their tourist visas.

In last week's DPR session, Indonesian Armed Forces Commander Try Sutrisno expressed suspicion over foreign involvement in the incident. At least five foreigners are suspected to have been involved in the riots, the armed forces commander said.

Besides Nairn and Goodman, the names of Christopher Wender and Stephen Christoper Cooks were also referred to. They are British nationals.

According to Sinuraya, the two blacklisted journalists did not admit that they were journalists when entering Indonesia, and used tourist visas.

The visa abuse violated the law, the more so because they conducted journalistic activities when staying in Indonesia.

Under this consideration, the immigration office included their names in the blacklist, he said adding that requests for the blacklist of the two foreign journalists also came from other security agencies.

E. Timor Bishop Interviewed on 12 Nov Incident

BK0112140291 Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian 23 Nov 91 p 26

["Excerpts" of interview with East Timor Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo by TEMPO correspondent Sandra Hamid in Dili on 13 November]

[Text] [Hamid] Do you know the total casualties in the 12 November incident?

[Belo] Official sources said death toll stood at 13, but Timorese people said 50, while a member of parliament said 80. I just heard reports, but do not know the exact number.

[Hamid] Did you have a chance to meet and talk with the injured ones?

[Belo] No. I was just moving around and visiting them. It was difficult to recognize their bruised faces. However, I talked with other youths who came here to find shelter. There were about 250 of them. On that day, I accompanied them home from 1300 to 1800.

[Hamid] It was reported that you called the police after these youths had come to find shelter in this house.

[Belo] Yes, I called the police at about 1100 because I wanted to take the initiative to accompany them home. I did not want police interference when I accompanied them home. At about 1730, when I was sending these youths home, I felt I was being trailed by a motorcycle and a car. So I sent the last batch of youths home the following day.

[Hamid] Do you feel there is a kind of tension between the church and the government?

[Belo] I believe so. After the incident at the church and cemetery, we are facing accusations and tension has risen. We must prevent this from happening. We must try to live together peacefully.

[Hamid] Some people said that the Motael church had been used for political purposes.

[Belo] The incident took place outside the church, in fact, far away from the church. Father Ricardo, head of the Motael diocese, performed mass on that day because he was requested to do so.

[Hamid] It was said that the security forces had found documents inside the church.

[Belo] It is totally true. I have given official explanation on this matter to the authorities.

[Hamid] It was reported that the documents included propaganda materials belonging to Fretilin [Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor].

[Belo] The documents were found outside the church and the priests' residence. They found nothing at the priests' residence. They found three persons, not flags as reported earlier.

[Hamid] Do you think the security authorities have broken regulations by searching the church?

[Belo] No. I even wanted them to come and search it. I gave them permission to enter the church.

[Hamid] If the Portuguese parliamentary delegation did visit East Timor, what do you think would have happened?

[Belo] I believe an incident similar to the one that took place on 12 November would have occurred.

[Hamid] What do you think of the 12 November incident?

[Belo] It was a tragedy amd I am still studying it. The incident indeed reflected dissatisfaction of the people.

[Hamid] What has made them dissatisfied?

[Belo] Many things, including welfare, a sense of oppression, and other things.

East Timor Governor Discusses 12 Nov Events

BK0212141991 Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian 23 Nov 91 pp 28,29

["Excerpts" of interview with East Timor Governor Mario Viegas Carrascalao by TEMPO correspondent Sandra Hamid in Dili on 14 November]

[Text] [Hamid] It was said that 19 people died and 91 were injured as a result of the incident. Did you visit the victims?

[Carrascalao] I visited the victims at the hospital on 12 November and found some of them in serious condition. I was told that 13 had died, 30 had serious injuries, and 70 had light injuries. Today I was told that 19 had died.

[Hamid] Did all of them suffer from gunshots?

[Carrascalao] Yes, most of them.

[Hamid] What about the relations between the church and ABRI [Indonesian Armed Forces]?

[Carrascalao] I noticed that the local military commander had made special efforts to approach the bishop. They hold talks and try to understand each other. However, they do not have similar interests and targets. I need to be able to mediate between them and be a calming influence. Whoever assumes the post of East Timor governor must be able to carry out his duties, which are based on three main pillars, namely, the church, ABRI, and the government. In East Timor, people have an absolute faith in the church. Therefore, I always try to maintain harmonious relations between the three elements. Of course we also need the ABRI.

[Hamid] Are there signs that the church wants to separate itself from the government?

[Carrascalao] No. While it is true the church cannot say that it has recognized the integration of East Timor into Indonesia, it will do so as soon as the Vatican recognizes the integration. I know there are differences of opinion among the priests on the issue of integration and the bishop is trying to mediate between them.

[Hamid] What do you mean by similar interests and targets?

[Carrascalao] As you know, it makes no difference to the churhc whether a person is a Fretilin [Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor] member or not. The church sees everybody as equal. However, the ABRI does not share this view. Those who live in the jungles (Fretilin) are ABRI enemies, but they are not church enemies. I once held discussions with local ABRI officers about this and they seemed to understand this situation. However, I believe the church must also be objective.

[Hamid] Are there pro-Fretilin priests?

[Carrascalao] Some of them are.

[Hamid] If the Vatican decides to recognize the integration, does it mean that the church will see Fretilin as enemies?

[Carrascalao] No. It makes no difference. The church does not view people from the point of view of their ideology. You know that the majority of those who live in the jungles are Roman Catholics, and the church must protect them. I know there are many priests who go into the jungles to see them and I never make an issue out of it.

[Hamid] If there are priests who go into the jungles to perform mass, does it mean that Fretilin members are not communists?

[Carrascalao] Fretilin is one thing and communism is something else. Xanana (a leader of East Timor security disturbance movement) said he is no longer a communist. I am not sure if this is just his tactic. When I spoke to him last time, he said he was no longer a Fretilin.

[Hamid] If we look at several events, can we say that the ABRI's territorial operations are not very successful? What kind of improvement must they make?

[Carrascalao] The territorial operations are successful in villages, but not in Dili. An improvement is needed here. I have already spoken to Brigadier General Warouw and urged him not to allow East Timorese people to assume positions in charge of security because, once they assume these positions and get ABRI backing, problems are bound to arise because of personal revenge and other reasons. This is one of the factors which led to the bloodshed in Dili.

[Hamid] Major General Sintong said some of the protesters carried rifles. What do you think?

[Carrascalao] I am not sure about this, but I am certain they carried sharp weapons. I regret the fact that security authorities did not try to prevent the protesters from marching. When such a great number of people gathered at the Motael church, it was impossible for them to march safely along the streets. However, there was also an ABRI order: If they do not engage in destructive acts, let them march.

When something happened during the march, the marchers began to scatter. I took photographs from this office and you can see that the marchers were not under strict surveillance by the security authorities.

[Hamid] You regretted the fact that the security authorities were unable to prevent the protesters from marching. What did you recommend to the central government in Jakarta?

[Carrascalao] I asked them to review the security system in Dili.

[Hamid] How did the incident at the Santa Cruz cemetery take place?

[Carrascalao] Before that, nothing unusual happened, but when it was announced that the Portuguese parliamentary delegation's visit had been cancelled, left-wing extremists and right-wing extremists began their preparations to hold their rally and counter-rally. I coined the terms left-wing extremists and right-wing extremists myself, and they have nothing to do with ideology. While the left-wing group made preparations quietly and could not do things openly, the right-wing group did things openly. The authorities' weakness was that they allowed this to happen. There are many things here which can cause antagonism, including the fact that there are 35 different dialects in East Timor. These people always fight, and Portugal used to take advantage of the situation for its own interests.

[Hamid] Did the right-wing group provoke the incident?

[Carrascalao] I have said many times before: Do not use the services of these people. They often create confusion, abuse the ABRI reputation, and do bad things.

[Hamid] Did you tell Maj. Gen. Sintong about this?

[Carrascalao] Yes. He said he would improve the situation.

[Hamid] Three years ago, you sounded very optimistic about the situation here.

[Carrascalao] Yes, but now, it is rather hard to be optimistic.

[Hamid] Some people said even if the Portuguese parliamentary delegation had indeed visited East Timor, a similar incident would have happened. It seems that East Timor is not ready to receive foreign visitors.

[Carrascalao] There are indeed people who want East Timor to become a closed area so they can reap benefits. East Timor was an open area during the Portuguese era. Why not now? In the past, there was a monopoly of coffee trade and now after the opening of East Timor, there are 15 companies which buy coffee from the local farmers. I told them to pay cash because the farmers did not understand the credit system.

[Hamid] What do you think of the decision to allow the visit of the Portuguese parliamentary delegation?

[Carrascalao] It is difficult for me to answer this question because foreign policy is not my specialty. But speaking personally, I believe that the decision will not benefit the East Timorese people. However, the national interests are obviously more important.

[Hamid] The invitation to the Portuguese delegation still stands if they are willing to exclude Jill Joliffee, the woman journalist, from their entourage. Do you agree with their coming in the near future?

[Carrascalao] When the central government decided to invite them, I voiced no opposition and tried to do my best to make the visit successful.

[Hamid] In a situation similar to the present?

[Carrascalao] They ought to come when East Timor has become a place worth visiting.

[Hamid] During the Portuguese era, there were no schools. Now there are many schools and also many problems. How do you solve them?

[Carrascalao] By providing jobs. The growth in the education field is too fast and we cannot create adequate job opportunities for school graduates. In the past, only eight percent of the population were literate and they became civil servants while the illiterate became farmers. School graduates are now told by their parents to become civil servants and they are not trained to become farmers.

We are now working toward improving agriculture by adopting more advanced techniques. We have launched agricultural pilot projects [two preceding words in English].

[Hamid] Do they want to become transmigrants?

[Carrascalao] If they go to Java, they will become frustrated in a few years' time because they will not be able to stand the Javanese life-style. The Javanese can live with little money in their pockets, but people here cannot. Besides, East Timorese are not business-minded.

[Hamid] Excuse me, this question is about integration. It was reported that about 20 percent of your personnel in this office are in fact anti-Indonesian. What is your opinion?

[Carrascalao] I am aware that some of them are. Last year, I administered disciplinary actions against about 50 of them.

[Hamid] Is it true that several priests are under suspicion?

[Carrascalao] My estimate is that four out of the 50 priests here are under suspicion.

[Hamid] What actions will you take?

[Carrascalao] I have already held talks with Bishop Belo about this issue and it is his prerogative to take any action. To my knowledge, the bishop transferred several priests after the talks.

[Hamid] After this incident, how do you face the 1992 general elections?

[Carrascalao] Well, I think it is rather difficult. It seems that many people are now disappointed. It is possible that people will turn their back on Golkar [Functional Group] because Golkar is the ruling party.

[Hamid] How about the current situation?

[Carrascalao] We are all in a period of mourning.

National Commission Chief: New Data Collected

BK0312100091 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0834 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Dili, Dec 3 (OANA/ANTARA)—The National Inquiry Commission (KPN) has received plenty of valuable information from non-military sources and the commission will process and crosscheck them with information from other sources.

"We've got a lot of new data about the background of the November 12 incident, the incident itself, and its aftermath," the commission head Jaelani told the press here Monday after a 10 hours meeting with East Timor's military operation commander Brigadier General R.S. Warouw.

He refused to give any temporary evaluation on the Santa Cruz incident which caused 19 people dead and 91 injured. "We're still at the stage of collecting datas," he stressed.

Asked about the possibility of the incident having been created by foreigners, East Timor military commander Warouw said that it needed to be proved.

He said, however, he had delivered all information he had to the commission and was ready to give additional information if needed.

As to the detainees, East Timor regional police commander told the press 15 of the 41 arrested people had been freed. He said that seven of the detainees were proved to be supporters of Fretilin and the others were students.

The commission, which has been here since November 28, had met with Governor Carrascalao, the chairman of the East Timor legislative assembly, East Timor Bishop Ximenes Belo, the priest of Motael church parish, Rev.Ricardo, the Dili mayor and the local regent and inspected the Motael church.

But it has yet to visit graves of the incident's victims in the village of hera about 20 kilometers from here and meet their bereft families.

Religious, Political Groups Oppose UN Mission

BK0312051491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0505 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] JAKARTA, Dec 3 (AFP)—Religious and political leaders in Indonesia have objected to plans to send a U.N. mission to investigate recent killings by troops in East Timor, press reports said Tuesday.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said in Lisbon last weekend that he was dispatching an envoy to Jakarta to negotiate with Indonesian authorities over the sending of a U.N. mission to probe the shooting by the military of mourners on November 12 in East Timor.

The Inter-Religion Deliberation Council, which groups the highest Indonesian religious authorities for Moslems, Roman Catholics, Protestants, Hindus and Buddhists issued a joint statement Monday expressing objections to the U.N. mission.

"The East Timor incident is a internal Indonesian incident, and we object that foreign sides intervene in our own country," the statement said.

It hailed the formation last month of the National Investigative Commission to probe the shooting. The seven members of the commission are currently in East Timor on a fact-finding visit.

"Whatever resolution they pass on East Timor, this province is an inseparable part of Indonesia," Minister of Political and Security Affairs Sudomo was Tuesday quoted by the JAKARTA POST as saying.

Sudomo said the United Nations should ask Jakarta first before sending such a mission and that so far the Indonesian authorities had not received any message on the issue.

"If the United Nations wants to send a commission to East Timor, it is in Indonesia's right to reject it," ruling Golkar Party parliamentarian Marzuki Darusman was quoted as saying by another daily.

Darusman said the incident was purely an internal affair which should be resolved by Indonesia and the U.N. plan to send in a team was "too hasty" because the government's investigative commission would provide "a true image" of the incident.

Former Indonesian foreign minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja told the JAKARTA POST that the government "would of course receive the envoy" but that any mission to East Timor should await the result of the government investigation.

Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, who is currently in Zimbabwe accompanying Indonesian President Suharto on a visit there, said last week that the country's mission in New York had not been contacted by the U.N. on the plan.

"If it is true that the U.N. secretary-general is sending an envoy to Indonesia just to come here, we will maybe accept this, but if (he comes) to negotiate the sending of a investigative mission to East Timor, the problem would be different," Foreign Ministry Spokesman Suteja Kartawijaya said Monday.

Suteja echoed Alatas when he said that Perez de Cuellar should first follow the proper U.N. procedures before sending any mission to Indonesia.

Jakarta has said troops shot in self-defence against an attacking mob at a cemetery in Dili in November 12 and that 19 people had died in the incident.

Other versions, including testimony of witnesses, said troops shot into a crowd of mourners and could have killed up to 115 people.

Indonesia unilaterally declared the former Portuguese colony of East Timor its 27th province in 1976 but the United Nations still views Lisbon as the legitimate administrator of the territory.

Perez de Cuellar has been sponsoring years of talks between Jakarta and Lisbon in an effort to settle the East Timor issue.

Laos

National Assembly Begins Seventh Session 28 Nov

BK2911143091 Vientiane KPL in English 0927 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 29 (KPL)—The People's Supreme Assembly [PSA] yesterday opened its 7th ordinary session presided over by its President Nouhak Phoumsavan.

N. Phoumsavan, addressing the session, said the 7th session was particularly important as its main objective was to consider some sensitive issues involving the PSA performance.

The session will consider the endorsement of some new laws—the Law on Enterprise Operation determining [words garbled] activities in various fields including production, construction, trade, services, tourism and others, and the Law on Family Registration. This law deals with birth, death, and marriage certificates. Also considered for endorsement at the session is the Law on the State Registrar.

'Success' of Session Reported

BK0112102191 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] The seventh ordinary session of the second Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] was held in Vientiane from 28-30 November. The session has considered and endorsed the draft law on family registration and the draft law on the state registrar. It has also discussed and revised a number of other laws. In addition, it has reviewed the work of the second assembly. The session was attended altogether by 68 SPA members from throughout the country. The session completed its work this afternoon. Chaleun Yiapaoheu, head of the Law and Constitution Commission of the SPA on behalf of the organizing committee of the session, has granted an interview to our station correspondent on the success of the session as follows:

[Begin Chaleun Yiapaoheu recording] The main purpose of the session was to consider certain draft laws, such as the draft law on family registration and the draft law on the state registrar. The session has also discussed the revision of certain laws to make them conform with the constitution. In addition, the session reviewed and assessed activities of the second SPA, inclucing the activities in performing the duties of establishing the constitution and endorsing a number of laws.

Attending the session were 68 SPA members representing the multiethnic people throughout the country. The session proceeded in an enthusiastic atmosphere full of profound content. Noteworthy is that it promoted an exchange of views given, in a high spirit of responsibility, by the SPA members.

During the session, the SPA members positively contributed views to the contents of the various draft laws. They also reviewed and assessed the activities and achievements of the second SPA in carrying out various tasks over the past more than two years. Noteworthy is the achievement in establishing the constitution and enforcing a number of laws. The constitution and the laws, which have been put into force, have served the requirements of the political tasks in the new stage. They have also met the aspiration of the multiethnic people who want to see our state and nation manage the country through the implementation of laws and the constitution. It can be said that as of now, we have responded to the said aspiration.

These are the achievements of the second SPA. They are also considered the achievements of all multiethnic Lao people who have contributed to the campaigns in establishing the laws and the Constitution. It can be said here that this second SPA has fulfilled its (?responsible political) task of drafting the constitution. This seventh session was merely held to review the work of the second SPA. This second SPA will continue to perform its work until the third National Assembly is elected. [end recording]

Session Closes, New Laws Adopted

BK0312115191 Vientiane KPL in English 0922 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Vientiane, Dec 3 (KPL)—The 7th session of the People's Supreme Assembly [PSA] (second legislature), was closed on November 30 after two days of sitting, with adoption of some laws.

The new laws adopted were the law on family registration, a law for the state court's registar office, and the alteration of some articles of the laws enforced currently.

President of the PSA Nouhak Phoumsavan, in his closing speech to the 7th session, said this session made a comprehensive assessment of the matters relating to the policies and orientations and the level of the socioeconomic development in the country. He valued frank comment and criticism expressed by the PSA's members over weaknesses and shortcomings in guiding the work.

The weak points discussed were related to the absence of the government for the strict implementation of the already promulgated laws. Consequently, some of the laws were not immediately observed, said Nouhak Phoumsavan. In this point, he referred to some foreign guests' observation that despite the enforced laws, their implementation was still insignificant.

That is why, he said, all levels responsible for the implementation of the laws propose the government and ministries adopt practical provisions guiding the implementation of the laws. In addition, he said, the propagation of laws among the citizens was to be conducted.

President Accepts Greetings From Foreign Envoys

BK3011111391 Vientiane KPL in English 0937 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 30 (KPL)—A ceremony was held at the Presidental Palace this morning where the diplomatic corps and representatives of international organisations in Laos conveyed their best wish to the republic president Kaysone Phomvihan on the occasion of the 16th founding anniversary of the Lao PDR [Lao People's Democratic Republic].

Responding to the greetings read out by the dean of the diplomats, Nguyen Xuan, President Kaysone Phomvihan said he was pleased and honoured to represent the party, the government, and the multi-ethnic Lao people of the country to receive the congratulations and good wishes presented to him on the occasion of the 16th anniversary of the national day of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and of the international new year 1992.

Kaysone Phomvihan said:

"The kind words which the dean of the diplomatic corps has just expressed on your behalf reflect the friendship and support of your countries, and the organizations which you represent, toward our Lao people.

On the achievements in the country, President Kaysone Phomvihan said:

"The 1991 which is about to come to an end has registered many important events for the existence and development of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The 5th party congress has reaffirmed its policy of renovation in all-round changes, leading our country on the path of development. The adoption of the first Constitution of the Lao P.D.R. and the other laws and codes by the National Assembly marks an important big turn in the development of the people's democratic regime, of the creation of the state of law, ensuring the fundamental democratic liberties of the people and the political stability, developing the effectiveness and the good functioning of the economic system of multisectors, ensuring the justice, the order and the public security. All of these constitute the necessary core enabling the exploitation, the development and the utilization of the natural recources and the existing potentials of our country, promoting also the broad relations of cooperation with other countries.

"In upholding its foreign policy of peace, independence, friendship and cooperation, the Lao People's Democratic Republic has established and will establish the relations of frendship, equality and of the mutual confidence with all countries on the basis of respect for the principles of peaceful coexistance, will actively contribute to the cause of the promotion of peace, security, cooperation and the well-being of the people of Asia and of the world.

In his concluding note, President Kaysone added:

"On this auspicious occasion, on behalf of the party, the government and the Lao people of all ethnic groups, I would like to express my gratitude and my sincere thanks, and through you, to the governments, the peoples and to the international organizations which you represent for the sympathy, the cooperation, the support and the precious assistance to our government and to our people. Likewise, on the occasion of the new year 1992, I would like to request you to kindly transmit my sentiments of affection, of friendship and my sincere good wishes of peace, of good health and of prosperity to the leaders of your respective countries and of your organizations".

Congratulatory Messages Received From SRV

BK0212130791 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Congratulatory message from Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee; Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the SRV State Council; Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers; and Le Quang Dao, chairman of the SRV National Assembly, to Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Commiuttee; Nouhak Phoumsavan, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]; and Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the LPDR, on the occasion of the 16th anniversary of the founding of the LPDR—dated 1 December]

[Text] On the occasion of the celebration of the 16th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], we would like to extend to the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee [LPRP CC], the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA], the LPDR Government, and the multiethnic Lao people our profound friendship and wholehearted congratulations.

The victory of the Lao revolution and the LPDR founding constituted an important event opening a new era for your beautiful country—the era of peace, independence, democracy, unification, and prosperity.

Over the past 16 years, under the correct leadership of the LPRP headed by respected and beloved Comrade Chairman of the LPRP CC Kaysone Phomvihan, the multiethnic Lao people have achieved much toward fulfilling the tasks of national defense and national construction and economic, cultural, and social development to continually improve the living conditions of the people. Particularly in the recent years, implementing the resolutions adopted at the Fourth and Fifth LPRP Congresses, the Lao people have won many important victories in the initial stage of all-round restructuring. The influence and position of the LPDR have been increased in the international arena with every passing day. The brilliant victory of the Fifth LPRP Congress early this year clearly reflected the strong unity and determination of the entire party and masses to take the Lao revolutionary cause forward.

The Vietnamese people are very pleased with those great victories and sincerely wish the Lao people more and greater achievements during the restructuring period and in implementing the Fifth LPRP Congress resolutions. We are elated to see that the relations of friendship, special solidarity, and all-round Vietnamese-Lao cooperation will continually increase and vigorously develop.

Fulfilling the teaching of the great President Ho Chi Minh and the recent agreement reached by the leaderships of the two parties and governments during the official friendship visit to Vietnam by President Kaysone Phomvihan, the Vietnamese people pledge to do all they can to constantly consolidate and develop these relations for the tasks of national construction and national defense of each country and in the interest of peace, stability, and cooperation in this region and other regions in the world.

On this occasion, on behalf of the Vietnamese people, with sincerity, we woukld like to express our profound gratitude toward the Lao party, government, and multiethnic people for having rendered and for currently rendering support and invaluable assistance to the revolutionary cause of the Vietnamese people.

May the relations of friendship, special solidarity, comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and Laos be further consolidated and developed in a fine manner at all times.

May all of you, comrades, have good health and achieve much in fulfilling your esteemed duties and obligations.

On the same occasion, Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, also received a congratulatory message from Nguyen Manh Cam, foreign affairs minister of the SRV.

'Profound Meaning' of National Day Event Noted

BK2911063991 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Article: "Let us organize the celebration of the 16th anniversary of the 2 December National Day with profound meaning"]

[Text] Beloved listeners, the 2 December 1975 event was the most important political episode in the life of the Lao people. It marked a historic event for them for they managed to completely topple the imperialists' regime of colonialism and neocolonialism and to replace it with the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] as a new, just, and correct regime in accordance with the aspirations of the entire Lao people.

Looking back over the past 30 years of our struggle against the imperialist aggressors for national liberation, the multiethnic Lao people who cherished patriotism and loved their country as if it were the apple of their eyes have sacrificed their lives to regain the national independence and the honor of the Lao nation. The great victory of historic significance won by the Lao people under the leadership of the honorable and majestic Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] on 2 December 1975 has become a resounding bell heard all over the world. Since then, the Lao people who have been imbued with the tradition of heroism and gallantry have enjoyed genuine independence, freedom, and the rights to be the masters of their own country. Over the past 16 years, the multiethnic Lao people have concentrated all efforts and wisdom on defending and building the country along the path of renovation chosen by them.

To allow the celebration of the historical day of our nation to be held under an atmosphere of happiness, jubilation, and great significance, Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon has issued an instruction on the organizing of the celebration of the 16th anniversary of the 2 December National Day. The instruction noted that the celebration of the 2 December National Day this year comes at a time when our entire party, army, and multiethnic Lao people are concentrating efforts on competing with one another in organizing the implementation and application of the 5th party congress resolutions, studying and appreciating the spirit and substance of the new Constitution, and implementing the socioeconomic plan for 1991.

To celebrate the 16th anniversary of the 2 December National Day with a profound meaning, all services, provinces, and localities throughout the country must organize campaigns to propagate the fine tradition of the 2 December National Day; point out the achievements and victories won in the recent past, especially in the past year; and review and assess such achievements and newly emerging factors. At the same time, they must take note of the causes of certain built-in and external weak points and remaining problems in order to urge all people to develop a sense of responsibility and to take the initiative to effectively resolve them in the future.

The prime minister's instruction also pointed out that in celebrating the occasion, emphasis must be placed on substance as the main theme while form remains only a secondary consideration. This means that the celebration of the occasion must be organized in a simple manner while thrift, political security, social order, and unity among the people must be taken into consideration and firmly ensured. At the same time, a sense of vigilance must be maintained against any designs of the enemies who may seize this opportunity to create disturbances among the people. The spirit of patriotism must be promoted and our entire people must take the initiative to contribute to the tasks of national defense and public security maintenance among the masses.

Another important issue is that in celebrating the 2 December National Day this year, all state, collective, and private organizations must continue launching political campaigns. They must speed up the popularization of the 5th party congress resolutions and the state's Constitution in a profound and extensive manner in accordance with the appropriate and genuine conditions in each locality. They must continue to vigorously build the grass roots and regard them as units which engage in production to gradually improve the living conditions of the people.

Special attention must be paid to creating achievements to welcome the 2 December National Day, that is, we must harvest the main season rice in a timely manner with minimal losses. At the same time, attention must paid to encouraging farmers to prepare conditions for carrying out dry season rice farming and crop cultivation and to turn such acvitity into an even broader movement than the previous year so as to produce enough rice to compensate for the severe damage recently caused by natural calamities. In addition, all services, units, brigades, and enterprises must concentrate efforts on fulfilling and meeting their production targets so as to create achievements to welcome the 16th anniversary of the historical day of our country with a profound meaning.

Kaysone Phomvihan's Hmong New Year Speech

BK0212115791 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Speech by President Kaysone Phomvihan at rally on 1 December in Vientiane to mark Hmong tribal people's traditional New Year Festival]

[Text] [Begin Kaysone recording] The characteristics of the traditional Boun Kin Chiang New Year Festival are mutual afffection, assistance, and solidarity. The festival is a joyous occasion for us to admire our past achievements and promote the fine unique culture and traditions of our Hmong people. This year's celebration of the festival organized by the Lao Front for National Construction Central Committee in Vientiane, the capital of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, marks something new. In the past, I used to be with the fraternal Lao Soung people to celebrate the Boun Kin Chiang Festival every year. I always remember the fun I had dancing and playing traditional ball games. Besides their fun-loving nature and sense of unity and mutual affection, our Lao Soung people possess fine traditions and culture which must be promoted. On the occasion of the traditional New Year, I, on behalf of the party Central Commmittee and government, extend best wishes to the Lao-Hmong compatriots inside and outside the country. In particular, I would like to extend greetings and best regards to the chieftains and heads of communities, national heroes, emulation combatants and their families, and the other Hmong compatriots who have done good deeds for our country and people. [applause]

I want to remind everyone here of our national liberation struggle which took many years before we could totally seize power and gain full control of every square inch of the country. The population of our beloved country comprises the Lao Loum, Lao Theong, and Lao-Hmong people. They [words indistinct) used to share woe and weal. The Lao Loum, Lao Thoeng, and Lao-Hmong jointly shed their blood on many battlefields from north to south for the national liberation cause. Later, the U.S. imperialists [words indistinct] aircraft. The fraternal Lao-Hmong, Lao Theong, and Lao Loum people joined hands in resistance until they achieved victory and seized power nationwide. As I said before, several tactics were applied in seizing power. The best tactic was the people's uprising. The fraternal Lao-Hmong people in the former stronghold areas in Sam Neua, Xieng Khouang, and other places also joined the uprising. Hence, we successfully liberated our beloved country in which [words indistinct] the fraternal Hmong, Lao Theong, and Lao Loum. We eventually won the greatest victory in 1975 in our struggle since 1945. It was a 30-year period of sacrifice and patience. Our people had to sacrifice everything, even their flesh and blood. Such sacrifices have enhanced the heroic traditions of the entire Lao nation, in particular the fraternal Hmong people, who detest oppression and exploitation. They even attacked [words indistinct] under the command of Chao Fa despite being outnumbered and lacking firearms. Such an event, as I was told, was common practice among the fraternal Lao Soung people during those years. The traditions of heroism, unity, and willingness to make all sacrifices for self mastery and national independence have been enhanced to a new quality. [end recording]

President Kaysone Phomvihan also mentioned the fraternal Hmong people's traditional diligence in production and noted the improvement of their living conditions and their spirit of unity and mutual assistance as well as their love for their fine cultures, traditions, and identity and their endeavors to do away with their backwardness step by step. He also pointed out the successses in agricultural production of the Hmong people in some areas such as Thong Pe village and Lak Sao of Khamkeot District of Khammouane Province, Long Lan village in Luang Prabang Province, and other places. He said that the living conditions in these areas is fairly good like that of other ethnic groups within the unified pan-Lao family.

Touching on our party and government's policy toward tribal people, he said:

[Begin Kaysone recording] The most important aspect is that the party and government have always paid attention to the implementation of a policy of unity and equality among tribes and solving the basic problems of the fraternal Hmong tribal people to improve their material and spiritual livelihood. This is the policy of nonracial discrimination, equality, and mutual affection. [applause]

Next I would like to explain the future plans and policies of the party and state in this regard. The party and state will continue to promote unity and accord among tribal people and guarantee equality and reduce and gradually eliminate the disparity in development of different tribes. Another aspect of the party's and state's plans and policies is to continue to implant among tribal people the spirit of patriotism and national accord to eliminate the ethnic thinking of narrowmindedness and inferiority. Third, we will create conditions for all tribes to further expand implementation of the so-called comprehensive rural development policy by resorting to appropriate financial sources to encourage economic sectors to participate in this plan to improve both material and spiritual living conditions of the fraternal Hmong tribal people step by step. It is the aspiration of the party and state to turn to develop rural areas and the mountainous region for the tribal people. This is a big policy. During the fifth party congress, we agreed that we must build new rural areas. [end recording]

President Kaysone Phomvihan concluded his speech by calling on the fraternal Lao-Hmong people to unite and rally around the party to join with other fraternal Lao tribal people to resist the war to affect changes through peaceful means of enemies and cooperate in implementing the party's and state's plans and policies, modify their means of production, live a new life, and work for prosperity so that each family has enough to eat and children can have good education. He said: Brothers and sisters, party members, and combatants in all sectors and localities must enhance the spirit of patriotism and love for the new regime, be imbued with the party and state's plans and policies, and promote their creativity and potential to fulfil their duties. It is important that we must turn to the grass roots together to build all-round strong grass roots and communities. The Lao-Hmong compatriots now living abroad must return to their homeland and demonstrate their sense of patriotism by sincerely contributing to the common causes of the nation.

After his speech, President Kaysone Phomvihan watched stage performances by Lao-Hmong cultural troupes. The entertainment programs included playing the reed mouth-organ, singing, dancing, and playing bamboo pipes.

PRC Helps Establish Cellular Phone System

BK2911143291 Vientiane KPL in English 0925 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 29 (KPL)—The Asia-Pacific Electronic (Laos) Company Ltd. on November 28 opened to the public service cellular phone system, equipped with modern equipment brought in from the People's Republic of China.

The mobile phone system, installed here with the Chinese investment, is to serve the development of Lao-Chinese cooperation contributing to socioeconomic development in particular in communication system.

Attending the opening ceremony were Bouathong, minister of communications, transport, post and construction, and Mr. Huang Guocai, Chinese ambassador to Laos.

Leaders Send Greetings to Albanian Counterparts

BK2011143491 Vientiane KPL in English 0923 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 29 (KPL)—Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic], on the occasion of the 47th National Day of the Republic of Albania sent a warm greeting message to his Alabanian counterpart Ramiz Alia.

President Kaysone Phomvihan wishes President Ramiz Alia and Albanian people happiness and prosperity. Kaysone also expressed his hope that the bilateral relations and cooperation will be further expanded.

On the same occasion, Lao Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon and Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut also sent greetings to their counterparts, respectively Ylli Bufi and Muhamet Kapllani.

Start of Mekong Bridge Construction Hailed

BK2911121991 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Undated PASASON Article: "The Construction of the Bridge Across the Mekong River Is Now Underway"]

[Text] The construction of the bridge across the Mekong River between Tha Naleng and Thailand's Nong Khai Province with gratis aid from the Australian Government is a gift for the Governments and peoples of Laos and the Kingdom of Thailand with an aim to further strengthen friendly relations among Laos, Australia, and Thailand, thus contributing to the strengthening of peace and stability in this part of the world. The historic bridge will benefit economic, trade, tourism, cultural, and social relations among Laos, Thailand, and other countries [words indistinct] and facilitate the transportation of transit goods through Thailand across the Mekong River into Laos as well as from Laos to foreign countries. The first bridge across the Mekong River between Laos and Thailand will take shape in the near future.

The bridge is named Friendship Bridge. It is situated on the Lao side at Tha Naleng, Kilometer 19 on the Vientiane-Thadoua road in Hatsaifong District of Vientiane Municipality and Thailand's Nong Khai provincial town. The bridge, 1,174 meters long with a distance of 665 meters over the water, is supported by six pillars in the river. The pillars are 105 meters apart from each other. The foot of the bridge on the Lao side is 240 meters long and 269 meters on the Thai side. The bridge, 12.7 meters wide, comprises roadways, pedestrian paths, and space at the middle of the bridge for future traintracks. In the dry season, the bridge will be 26 meters above the water and 13.4 meters in the rainy season.

The project was first initiated in 1989 when Australian Prime Minister His Excellency Bob Hawke proposed the construction of the bridge to the Lao and Thai Governments. In 1990, a survey and economic and technical feasibility study for the construction were conducted. In May, the design of the bridge was completed. In September, an Australian company, (John Slan), won the bidding for the construction of the bridge.

The foundation-stone laying ceremony on 24 November marked the beginning of the construction of Friendship Bridge. The bridge is expected to be officially open for traffic in mid-1994. The cost of the construction is estimated at U.S.$30 million.

The Lao side provided some 15 hectares of land for the construction of the bridge. The Australian side will pay for the procurement of contruction materials such as gravel, sand, timber, labor force, machinery, transportation cost, water, electricty, phone service, living quarters, and inspection work.

With the full cooperation of organizations concerned and local people, eleven houses and a number of power tranmission poles and irrigantion canals were moved from the construction site.

Another great benefit of the construction of Friendship Bridge is that the Lao side will be able to participate in and learn from the construction of such a big bridge. In other words, Australian technology will be transferred to the rank and file of Lao engineers, technicians, and construction workers. For this reason, the Lao side will forge ahead with a high sense of responsibility to contribute to the construction of the bridge until its completion as scheduled.

Philippines

Government Leaders React to Honasan Interview

HK2811145091 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in English 1430 GMT 27 Nov 91

["Straight From the Shoulder" program featuring interview with Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon; General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces Chief of Staff; and Defense Under Secretary Eduardo Ermita by program host Louie Beltran—live; italicized passages in Tagalog]

[Excerpt] [Beltran] Good evening and welcome to tonight's edition of Straight From the Shoulder. Last week, as you probably saw or heard—we are getting so many requests for tapes of that interview because we did not announce it—I had an interview, one- on-one, with the country's most wanted military rebel, former Colonel Gringo Honasan. At the time I did the interview, I announced that we are enthusiastic, willing, able to hear the government's side on the issue. So, tonight's guests are here now, principally to answer Colonel Honasan and to give us an overview of something that a lot of us are afraid of. I'm sure that with the coming elections, with the advent of Christmas, with the fact that 1 December is going to be a weekend again, a lot of people are worrying themselves to death by thinking about the possible coup d'etat, about the possibility of military intervention in the elections, as former Colonel Honasan said in that interview.

So, tonight we will be able to get a chance to ask the questions directly, unlike last week. Tonight's show was brought about without my having to be blindfolded and driven around Metro Manila. I just stayed here, they came.

With us tonight is not a spokesman of the military, not even a spokesman of the government, but probably one of the most important cabinet members in the country who is now being blamed for the [word indistinct] for the LDP [Struggle of Filipino Democrats] convention. Just to give you an idea of how important he is—Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon. With us also is the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, General Lisandro Abadia, the man who came from nowhere to become the number one soldier in the country, principally because nobody knows what happened inside Camp Aguinaldo. But little by little the story is coming out and so he is here. He is ready to answer any of the questions you ask. We were supposed to have Secretary Renato de Villa, the secretary of national defense, but he is tied up with something and he has sent his spokesman Under Secretary Eduardo Ermita, who is a veteran spokesman not only for De Villa but former Secretary Fidel Ramos. He is in training, so we are training him tonight to appear in public forum because he may become a congressman by next year. So he should get as much training as he can get.

Our topic for tonight is the Gringo [renegade Colonel Honasan] interview and what our guests think of him. We have with us Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon, Under Secretary Eduardo Ermita, General Lisandro Abadia.

First question, Executive Secretary Drilon. What bothers you the most at this point? The electric rates or Gringo Honasan?

[Drilon] The electric rates. [laughs]

[Beltran] I thought that would be your answer. What did you think of the tape? Well, I asked you on the radio about the points he brought up—the talking points—and I think the general answer was that he is about one echo in a million voices complaining about safety.

[Drilon] Yes. As I was saying over your radio, Louie, the talking points of Mr. Honasan are of concerned problems which we have been addressing and something is being done. It is not as if this is the first time that these problems are being discovered and the public knows that, for example, the matter of a clean and honest election, the election law, the omnibus amendment to the election law has just been passed according to our synchronized elections, and the safeguards....

[Beltran, interrupting] Has the president signed it?

[Drilon] Yes. The president signed it yesterday and I think it was published today or may be published tomorrow. So, these things are in place. The president has publicly ordered General Abadia during her last State of the Nation address that the military should stay neutral. All the things are being done in order that hopefully we can have a clean, honest, and orderly election because this is so critical for our democracy that we have gained an honest election and a peaceful transition. So, this problem has been or is being addressed and we are conscious of our obligation to our people. The president is conscious of her obligation to the people to have a peaceful transition of power and an honest election. Of the Mr. Honasan talks or dialogue, in Cluster E we have long decided that yes, we should have a dialogue with the left and right. In fact, initial peace initiatives have been taken in a number of provinces: in Quezon, Batangas, Davao, all these things are taking place at the local level.

So, it is not as if these problems are not being addressed. And if you take a look at these so-called talking points, it is a one- page document. So generalized that, immediately, you will know that what Mr. Honasan was doing was to ride on issues which he felt were being discussed and have popular support and just .... [changes thought] [sentence indistinct] So, you know, you talk about honest, efficient and good government. Of course, everybody would want this....

[Beltran, interrupting] The thing that I noticed there is I think the RAM, when it began under the Reform the Armed Forces Movement in the time of Marcos, at that point in time, their focal point was the Armed Forces, to reform the Armed Forces.

[Drilon] Yes.

[Beltran] But now they call themselves *Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan* [Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance]. And Gringo Honasan said they are not a coup-plotter group but they are a revolutionary movement and they talk about having a political component and a political agenda (masked) by an armed force staff. Now, can you explain to the people why there was no lengthy explanation on his part about that point? Can you explain? Why do you think there is a transition in objective, in purpose from a very limited (demand) of the Armed Forces to talking points which include the treatment of the Marcos body, the irreversible withdrawal of the Americans, etc.

[Drilon] Firstly, I think one of the things which General Abadia and the leadership of the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] has been doing in the past several years is to inculcate in the minds of our military, of our Armed Forces personnel, that they should not engage in political issues. Leave that to the civilian political leaders because that is how our government is structured. So, the mere fact that all these political points are being put across in order to put a facade of a revolutionary movement, which I think are very deliberate and is a smart move in order to remove that perception that they are nothing more but a bunch of people who would want to take over government through violent means.

[Beltran] In other words, you are not dealing with a bunch of guys who just want to overthrow the government. You are dealing with a revolutionary movement?

[Drion] That is what they are trying to project.

[Beltran] Do you think that's valid? Do you think they have a political component?

[Drilon] There is a right to put across political messages but I don't really know if I should surely doubt whether they have a political movement. Of course, we keep on hearing about civilian supporters but that's another thing.

[Beltran] Okay. One of the things that Gringo Honasan brought up also—he says they were happy with the dialogue with General Abadia, that the dialogue was continued. But even while the dialogue was going on, there were forces inside the government that thought of deliberately sabotaging the outcome of the dialogue. I am going to ask Under Secretary Ermita because I think there was a clear inference as to what sector from the defense, from the civilian aspect or part of the Defense Department....[changes thought] that somebody was trying to get in between General Abadia and military rebels and sabotage the talks completely so that they will not continue. Is there any group within the Defense Department who would benefit from such a thing—sabotaging the talks?

[Ermita] No. I don't think that's true because in the first place, the government has been following the policy of reconciliation but it should be reconciliation with justice. And I suppose what they are referring to would be the constant dialogue that the chief of staff is having with the secretary of national defense and for that matter getting specific guidance also from the highest leadership to Cluster E....

[Beltran, interrupting] So, you're saying that the public perception that Secretary De Villa was left out of the talks completely is not accurate?

[Ermita] No. That's not true because....

[Beltran, interrupting] So, it would not have been motivated to sabotage the talks because he was not part of it.

[Ermita] No. General Abadia is here and....

[Beltran, interrupting] Yes. I'm going to ask him a little later but you know, the reason I'm asking you this is that I felt that that was the inference being waged. I don't think there is any love lost between General Abadia, Secretary Ramos, yourself, and the military rebels. You had been fighting a little earlier than that and General Abadia said new elements which came....[changes thought] And also he did more damage to them than you did. Just in inference, you know, he says that somebody, [words indistinct]. They have already shown their goodwill by bringing in Colonel Kapunan and some other officers and all of a sudden Malacanang imposes a November 23 deadline out of the blue.

[Drilon] I think he was aware that this talks could not perpetually continue and could not just go on and on indefinitely without any deadline. And certainly this matter was discussed with the president by General Abadia together with Secretary De Villa and myself. This deadline was agreed upon and I assume General Abadia relayed this to them that we could not allow the talks to go on forever.

[Beltran] What kind of a time frame did you assign then? Of course the talks collapsed, but before the talks started at all, before General Abadia saw Gringo Honasan and company, did you have a time frame in your mind or in the mind of the president or in Malacanang?

[Drilon] When this was being discussed....[changes thought] I recall the fact that when General Abadia said the group of Colonel Red Kapunan was going to surface, the instructions of the president was that, alright, after Colonel Kapunan surfaces, let us give Mr. Honasan two weeks within which to follow the example of Colonel Kapunan, if he is willing to follow that. Then after that, the moratorium will be lifted on the manhunt. And since General Abadia was to leave for Honolulu for the mutual defense work, another week was allowed and so that's how the November 23 deadline was enforced....

[Beltan, interrupting] [question indistinct]

[Drilon] No, it was not. The instruction was two weeks from the time Colonel Kapunan surfaced. Colonel Kapunan surfaced on November 1. And therefore the original deadline was November 15.

[Beltran] Okay, let me just snatch something from what you said. You refer to Gringo Honasan as Mr. Honasan and to Colonel Kapunan as Colonel Kapunan. Is Colonel Kapunan a part of the Armed Forces? Honasan is not?

[Drilon] Maybe General Abadia can answer that.

[Beltran] I am going to turn to General Abadia. I think you saw the interview. I do not know if it is a question of divide and rule, but you are coming out looking really good in that interview, that you are sincere, you are honest, you are right up front, and it is the bad civilian guys who are interposing and sabotaging, etc. What do you think of that line of talk from the....

[Abadia, interrupting] I think they like me. [laughter] I think they like me and at the same time they respect me. Going back to the November 23 deadline. We talked about this with the president, Secretary De Villa, and Secretary Drilon. And we initially set that at November 15—and then because I was going to Hawaii—we agreed it was going to be November 23. And so I told Colonel Kapunan to relay this deadline to Gringo Honasan.

[Beltran] So they were aware of the deadline?

[Abadia] They were aware.

[Beltran] It is not something that came as a surprise to them.

[Abadia] No.

[Beltran] Between the time you told Colonel Kapunan to relay the message to Gringo Honasan and company, was there any development in the talks? Did they suddenly say: Here, we are prepared to make concessions? Are these some of the developments resulting from that? Were there any positive or negative movements at all after that deadline was delivered?

[Abadia] No. I was really trying to get in touch with Gringo Honasan. I was using Colonel Kapunan. And as a matter of fact, before the deadline, I talked to Gringo Honason before the deadline.

[Beltran] Okay. They are saying that as a result of the dialogue with you, they surfaced Colonel Kapunan. They have sacrificed him in other words to show their goodwill, etc. It is your impression that it was a sign of goodwill that they sacrificed him or was it a personal decision on the part...?

[Abadia interrupting] It was a personal decision of Colonel Kapunan and the decision of the others who also followed suit. And then Colonel Kapunan told me that he is going to try his very best to also convince Gringo Honasan to surface.

[Beltran] So what you are saying in effect is that this was not a concession of the RAM leadership to offer these people up to you. And as a matter of fact they said that as a result of the dialogue they have decided to come into the Armed Forces again and stand trial.

[Abadia] No. It was just that I said, well at my level, they can surface. They will be put into our custody and they will enjoy a semi-normal life. But at the same time they will also have to face the courts. And because at this time there is no extra judicial settlement in a form of an amnesty law.

[Beltran] Was it your impression that... [changes thought] Well, this probably calls for a personal judgement on your part but like they set a [words indistinct] in the dialogue and that you're sincere in your efforts. And did you actually believe that they would all come in and go into military custody?

[Abadia] No. I had my doubts with Calajate and Honasan. Even the first two times that we talked, I placed it at something like 50-50. And so, later on because the talks were going on, our intelligence operations were also going on....,

[Beltran, interrupting] So it continued.

[Abadia] Monitoring their movements and their conversation, etc. So, I knew that, initially, it was Calajate who was really the hardliner. But as for Honasan—at that point in time I had the impression that Calajate would not surface—Honasan was at something over 50-50. So even on the eve of the deadline, I was still hoping that they would come in.

[Beltran] General Abadia, you know I have heard Gringo Honasan say before, I have heard almost all of the chiefs of staff [as heard] say before, I've heard you say before that the Armed Forces of the Philippines should be immune from politics, should be sterilized from being polluted by politics. And yet Colonel Honasan, former Colonel Honasan told me in that interview: We have an armed group and soon we will surprise you with a political component and a political agenda. What do you think of that statement? I think that's very basic. You have to answer that fundamentally because a lot of people are very scared. Is our military becoming politically minded? Are they planning to take over one of these days and we will have a president Lisandro Abadia or somebody later? [laughter]

[Abadia] First of all, he was talking about an armed group. There are 11 of them, maybe some ex-soldiers. So, I would suppose that he is not referring to the Armed Forces as the armed group. As to the political component, it struck me really because he is supposed to be military minded and he is talking of a group that is not also a political component. So, he is talking more like a politician than like a soldier. And so, he is something who's an anathema to military professionals. That's why I said perhaps these people, if given a chance in the future, if they want to run the government, they have to run for office.

[Beltran] So, they better run for public office rather than remain within the Armed Forces.

[Abadia] If they want to stay in the Armed Forces, they should not indulge in politics.

[Beltran] You consider this as part of the ethics of the military profession that you follow the Constitution, renew the Constitution [word indistinct]. But you yourselves do not make political decisions. In the case of the RAM, at some particular point in time in the Edsa [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] revolution, they were in contact with political groups, the political opposition. Gringo Honasan told me that some of the top officials were allegedly in contact with them. They are an armed group with a conscience who are prepared to carry out a political objective. Do you ever envision the Armed Forces in the throne...?

[Abadia, interrupting] No.

[Beltran, continuing]...or of carrying out a political objective where they put the administration over to the opposition group?

[Abadia] I don't think that's happening in the present crop of leaders in the Armed Forces, from me to the major service commanders and even to the battalion commanders at the moment. It is something very unfamiliar to us.

[Beltran] I like that word unfamiliar because in the old days, the provincial commanders were often used to steal the ballot boxes, to terrorize the opponent. In your particular case, you're talking of battalion commanders, brigade commanders, division...[changes thought] This is not part of the....

[Abadia, interrupting] [sentence indistinct]

[Beltran] Have you not verified the fact that some of them have been involved in any of these?

[Abadia] There are some intercessors [words indistinct]. Then I call that particular officer and talk about it. Sometimes I say, because the one complaining is a congressman, that you have to report to that congressman and explain it yourself and I think they clarify it and he comes back to me and says: It's all okay with the congressman. He is satisfied with my explanation. So, the mere complaints—I put to task that particular commander.

[Beltran] Okay, let's get one particular question out of the way. *We have so many callers here.* Ben Mendoza of Tondo; Corporal Jose Leonardo of Mandaluyong. The questions are these: *You said you will resign if you fail to capture Gringo Honasan. When is your deadline for your resignation? Second: If you fail to convince Honasan to surrender, will you really resign? Is this true?*

[Abadia] I never said I will resign! [chuckles] *But joking aside, I will try my best to find him. I was not looking for him then because there was still the so-called moratorium and the dialogue was ongoing. But now that these are finished, I will find him. When we talked earlier, I told him: Let us prove our skills, you in hiding and me in hunting you down. They [Honasan's group] are composed of only 11 members now. I want to tell them, in fact I told Gringo Honasan, that at the time we start our hunt, we will only be looking for you. The entire Armed Forces will do nothing but to find you.*

[Beltran] *Many people are analyzing this. One of them said: Why is it that there has never been any shoot-to-kill order on Gringo Honasan when on others there were?*

[Abadia] There was never any shoot-to-kill orders. Not even with the police. This is prohibited.

[Drilon] That is against our Constitution. *That is only allowed in the movies. Shoot-to-kill is not allowed because we have justices who are responsible for trying these cases.* You cannot just declare a shoot-to-kill order because that is prohibited. It is not an acceptable process in our democratic system of government.

[Beltran] When I interviewed Gringo Honasan, somehow, he was creating the impression that there is control. He was saying that....[changes thought] *For example, I said, the people were saying that they were only using the dialogue to organize inside the Armed Forces so that they can move freely, so that they can plan for a new coup d'etat. But he said they had not stopped reorganizing. Even before the talks,* [there was] reorganization and our infrastructure is inside the Armed Forces. Do you think that's true? You are talking of 11 officers only.

[Abadia] Yes. *The impression they want to give the nation is that they still enjoy the sympathy of the Armed Forces. But we also monitor them. We heard that there are still recruitment efforts within the Armed Forces. This is kind of sensitive. If we notice that a recruitment is going on, I summon the concerned officers. Right now, I will be surprised to hear him say that their infrastructure is still intact or that they are stronger now than before because* we don't see it on the ground. Maybe it is propaganda. I think it is more propaganda than anything.

[Beltran] You also talk about the Armed Forces—well, you've said that too, and several other people have said it too, that the Armed Forces are united for the first time.

[Abadia] Yes.

[Beltran] *I think that their inference is that if the Armed Forces is united, they are included.*

[Abadia] I did say that the reason why I am truly wanting to reach out to them is because, technically, we are not really united for as long as there are still a few of them who are still outside the law. *So, I want to bring them in, [for them to] surface voluntarily, so that the Armed Forces will finally be united. But I also told them that there is no amnesty yet and that they have to face court martial.*

[Beltran] Secretary Drilon, the matter of amnesty, the president has said no amnesty and that they have to go before the courts, talk maybe about pardon or whatever. But now there is no amnesty. Is it the policy of the government to maintain a hardline stand?

[Drilon] *That is not hardline, Louie. That is only proper because they did something against the law and they have to face this as a man. They have to face the courts and let these determine whether they did wrong. If they seek pardon, maybe this can be discussed at that point. But President Aquino cannot outrightly say they are forgiven. There has been a lot of destruction. The country was affected during the several coups they launched previously. So, this reconciliation should be a reconciliation with justice prevailing.*

[Beltran] *This is a question from Ms. Norma of Sta. Mesa: If you believe your own propaganda that Honasan's group no longer has capability, why do you still talk to them and why do you still keep offering rewards?*

[Abadia] *My aim for wanting them to surface is for the people to see because if they continue to remain underground, our businessmen are scared to invest while the foreign investors will not come in because Honasan has not surfaced. So, I told him: Greg, I think it is time for you to show up because our foreign investors believe you can* *still cause trouble. But we know that you no longer have the ability to do so.* So, I think it is time to think more for our country because the business climate is really terrible on account of a lot of you still in the underground. *So this is the important thing in my mind, why they have to surface and be seen and say they will not launch any coups anymore. They are no longer ghosts but people who can be seen and no longer perceived by our investors as people who can sow trouble anytime.*

[Beltran] When I interviewed Honasan, he said that the talking points, I think the number eight of the talking points, it was, he said, that in the Armed Forces there have been a lot of reforms. There are not too many complaints about the Armed Forces.

[Abadia] *I told him to cut it out. He knows that a lot of reforms have been achieved in the Armed Forces. But he did not do these. I even gave the venue to make the talking points and that was inside Camp Aguinaldo. Those detained, about eight or six, wanted homework. They did that. They worked on it for two nights. That is how the talking points were made.*

[Beltran] *You mean, General, that the detained officers made those talking points?*

[Abadia] Yes. They told me they wanted to convey some of their concerns to the government. So, I said okay. I gave them quarters in Camp Aguinaldo. They took some detainees in Crame, from the Philippine Army and in....[changes thought] So, they spent some nights there.

[Beltran] So, they suddenly transferred to Aguinaldo?

[Abadia] *Yes. I conceded to their request. So, they made their requests to the government for two nights inside Camp Aguinaldo.* They even used my typewriter. [laughter]

[Beltran] Gringo Honasan said that the first time you talked to each other was inside an Army camp. He went inside the camp. He went to a house of a friend of his. He called you from the house in your office. So, everybody—it was Camp Aguinaldo.

[Abadia] Yes, that is correct. *You know, if they want to talk to me, all they need to do is pick me up at the office alone. I would tell my security to stay behind. They could bring me to any place they want.*

[Beltran] So, you would go with them? In their car? Alone? No blindfold?

[Abadia] Yes. I don't want to be blindfolded.

[Beltran] General, you made this happen. You must be confident that they were not going to harm you, that there was no ....[changes thought] They could have taken you hostage. They can just say they will exchange you with all their detained comrades. Didn't that cross your mind?

[Abadia] Well, it crossed my mind but it was worth taking the risk. I want to find out if they are really gentleman officers.

[Ermita] Secretary Drilon, are you surprised with what General Abadia is saying?

[Beltran] [sentence indistinct]

[Drilon] I know that General Abadia told us that these talking points were made inside the quarters and were prepared in two nights. So, this is how things came out.

[Beltran] But do you find the talking points valid? I think that there is some validity....

[Drilon, interrupting] There is no question these are the problems *which the country is facing, but it does not mean that we are not giving attention and solutions to them. What we are even saying is that we have been aware of these things they are saying for a long time and we have been looking for solutions; some have already materialized. Not all of the problems can be solved overnight. Those statements like bureaucracy, U.S. bases pullout, economic progress—the entire Congress is talking about it. The whole of Malacanang is talking about it. All the Cabinet members are talking about it. So this is what I mean when I say that they are riding on these issues. General Abadia is saying now that these were made within two nights, but it has been six years since we started struggling with these problems and it is impossible to resolve this in just two nights.*

[Beltran] Okay, one point which they kept hammering away at is the election, the coming election. *It looks like their impression is that they are prepared to wait and will not launch a coup unless the electoral process, including free elections, is perverted. If there is any cheating or destruction of the electoral process, they can move.*

[Drilon] That is our problem, Louie. If the members of a political debate have arms, they can use these arms if they dislike the debate. This should not be our policy under a democracy. We should hold a debate and you should convince me that you are right while I convince you that I am right. And if we disagree, we take it to the people. The problem is we say that they have a political agenda and if we debate with them on 10 political issues and if they would not like what you said they may shoot you.

[Beltran] Based on your statements, General Abadia does not like politics while you don't want those with arms to meddle.

[Drilon] I would not like those with arms to interfere with the political debate because that is not right. We, political leaders of this country, debate on issues. You as a journalist, you criticize us but we don't shoot you because we know that it is your duty as a media person and a government guard. But if the situation is that if we don't like the things you say, we shoot you—where will that take us?

[Beltran] *In other words, you are saying that if they have a candidate for the presidential elections in 1992 and they lose, they can claim cheating occurred.*

[Drilon] That is why the policy of the Armed Forces is that the Armed Forces should not engage in any political activity because of that armed component. We should engage in a political debate in a democracy. We try to sell our ideas to the people but we should use the force of arms to convince the others of the righteousness of our foes.

[Beltran] Seretary Ermita?

[Ermita] Yes. Louie, I would like to respond to that also. I think there is an effort to drag the situation to a similar situation that led to the EDSA revolution. Please note that the February '86 EDSA revolution actually was the result of a confluence of events. And among these events were the result of the snap elections, the trial of those who were involved of the death of ex- Senator Aquino and many others. *Now, they could be referring to electoral reforms as a reason to rise up again. They want to mold the people's thinking so that* should a massive fraud occur in the forthcoming elections, then this could replicate the situation in February 86.

[Beltran] Do you think they are planning another EDSA?

[Ermita] I think, Louie, that they want the people to believe that the situation in the 1992 polls could be similar to the 1985-86 polls because of the snap elections. I think that is the reason why they are in this main agenda about electoral reforms.

[Beltran] From Jerry Bulase, Alabang, Muntinlupa, to General Abadia and Mr. Beltran: Is Honasan's threat still that serious?

[Abadia] *Not any more. Their capability is marginal. But they are still capable of bombings, raiding armories and the like.*

[Beltran] Yes. I heard they raided the PNP [Philippine National Police] armory. Were you able to recover all the....

[Abadia, interrupting] Yes. A few hours later, we were able to recover. We captured them. The operation is still ongoing.

[Beltran] *People were a bit surprised with that. Are your intelligence agents that good?*

[Abadia] They were captured at once.

[Beltran] *This question is for me:* If you were able to talk to Colonel Honasan face to face, how come you did not tell the military his whereabouts? *Well, I did not know his whereabouts because I was blindfolded.* From Rene Pacheco of Makati: You said there is no amnesty for RAM soldiers and yet you are offering amnesty to the NPA [New People's Army], which has done more damage to the country.

[Drilon] No. We have an existing executive order stipulating that those who want amnesty should apply and at a certain point when the president decides to grant amnesty, it will be applicable to everybody. But as of now, there is no amnesty.

[Beltran] In other words, that is the present offer. But if they want it, there is a process.

[Drilon] Yes. There is a process.

[Beltran] From Jun Sandoval, Manila, for Secretary Drilon or anyone else: Who supports Honasan financially? Can you name those businessmen and politicians?

[Ermita] *There are rich businessmen supporting Honasan. We know them but we need evidence to arrest them and to file charges against them. If we are not ready with the evidence, we cannot arrest them because they could come after us.* But we know who they are.

[Beltran] From Emelito Fernandez of Dagupan for General Abadia: General Abadia, since you have already spoken to Gringo, why did you not arrest him?

[Abadia] *I was alone.* [laughter]

[Beltran] *You were scared to arrest him. From an anonymous person to General Abadia:* If you are serious in getting Honasan, why don't you create a task force of non-PMA'ers [Philippine Military Academy] and you will be sure to get Honasan, just as non-PMAers got hold of him the first time. For as long as PMA'ers head intelligence agencies, the RAM has its eyes and ears open about the AFP's plot.

[Abadia] *PMA is unimportant. When we hunt him down, whether with PMA people or not, we will find him.* [passage omitted]

Thailand

Government Hosts Dinner for Sihanouk, Son Sann

BK0312010391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Dec 91 p 6

[Text] Leaders of the Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh government were not invited to a working dinner last night hosted by Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun at Ban Phitsanulok.

Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin said Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who was one of the guests along with his son, Prince Ranariddh, and Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) leader Son Sann, drew up the guest list, not Mr Anan.

Mr Asa said the working dinner was aimed at discussing the peace process and measures to strictly implement the United Nations-brokered peace plan signed in Paris on October 23.

He also said it was up to the Cambodians whether Khmer Rouge leaders accepted Prime Minister Hun Sen's offer of the state guest house to ensure their security.

The offer follows the assault by an angry mob on senior Khmer Rouge official Khieu Samphan upon his return to Phnom Penh last week.

"If the SNC (Supreme National Council) is to function, it is necessary for Hun Sen to have measures to ensure the security of the Khmer Rouge," he said.

"If the SNC does not function, it will not do any party any good—the Cambodians, Thailand and the international community," he said.

Mr Asa said the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) had already sent 268 men to lay the groundwork for the UN Transitionary Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) to hold general elections in 1993.

He said UNTAC officials were expected to arrive in July or August next year, but not before because of budget limitations.

The two main points to be discussed at today's SNC meeting in Phattthaya are the security for Khmer Rouge officials and how to activate the SNC in Cambodia.

The meeting will include the four factions, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and representatives of France and Indonesia, the two co-chairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia.

Mr Asa said he was unsure how long the SNC meeting in Phatthaya would last but Prince Sihanouk had to return to Cambodia on December 5.

Cambodian Refugees Stage Rally in Camp 29 Nov

BK2911090791 Hong Kong AFP in English 0803 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Site 8 Refugee Camp, Thailand, Nov 29 (AFP)—Thousands of Cambodian refugees staged a rally in this Khmer Rouge-controlled camp Friday to condemn the attack which forced faction leaders Khieu Samphan and Son Sen to flee Phnom Penh for their lives.

The rally was apparently stage-managed, but Khmer Rouge leaders of the camp on Thailand's border with Cambodia would tell reporters only that they had given "permission" for the demonstration, during which Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen was burnt in effigy.

Pictures of a bloodied Khieu Samphan were also displayed by the crowd of some 3,000 as they shouted: "Justice for our leader. We'll fight for peace in Cambodia."

Khieu Samphan was slightly wounded in the head Wednesday when his residence was attacked by a lynch mob in Phnom Penh in retaliation for the bloody 1975-79 Khmer Rouge rule over Cambodia during which more than one million people died in extermination campaigns.

Following the attack, in which Phnom Penh security forces finally pulled Khieu Samphan to safety as the crowd was preparing to lynch him, he and Son Sen flew to Bangkok.

The two are Khmer Rouge representatives on the Supreme National Council (SNC), a reconciliation body of Cambodia's rival factions which last month signed a peace treaty to end their 13-year war.

During the rally here, a group of stick-wielding demonstrators beat an effigy of Hun Sen before burning it. "You Vietnamese slave, you Vietnamese lackey," members of the group yelled before setting the effigy on fire.

Before the incident in Phnom Penh, Hun Sen had said the government would organise demonstrations against Khieu Samphan, who was Khmer Rouge head of state in the 1975-79 period. Analysts believe authorities lost control of the crowds.

The rally here, which was closely watched by Thai military officials, dispersed after one hour without incident. Site 8, which houses a refugee population of some 35,000, is located just across the border from Khieu Samphan's Cambodian headquarters at Phnom Malai.

Rong Lek, a camp leader, saying he was concerned about peace in Cambodia, condemned what he described as "the apparent failure" by the Phnom Penh Government to guarantee the security of the Khmer Rouge leaders.

"We are pointing the finger at no one. But the fact remains that there are some elements there that do not want peace," Rong Lek said.

"There have been political activities in Phnom Penh recently to isolate the Khmer Rouge. But we are not going to turn to arms. We will work harder to bring peace to our country," he said.

He also urged the United Nations and the SNC to guarantee the security of the Khmer Rouge leaders and intensify efforts to bring peace to Cambodia.

Agriculture Minister on Details of Burma Trip

BK0112044291 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Dec 91 p A2

[Text] Agriculture Minister Anat Aphaphirom said yesterday that his recent trip to Burma does not mean that Thailand has accepted the Burmese military government.

"It was just a talk between two neighbouring countries," said the minister at Don Maung Airport yesterday evening after returning from a three-day official visit to Rangoon to strengthen economic ties between the two nations.

Anat was reported to have met with his Burmese counterpart, Agriculture and Forestry Minister Gen Chit Swe. The two parties were said to have reached agreement on four issues, including technical cooperation, the extension of fishing and forestry concessions and livestock trading between the two nations.

Asked about a statement by the anti-Slorc National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB) which claimed the three-day trip demonstrated Thailand's support of the Burmese military junta, Anat said he had not heard any report on the statement yet.

Meanwhile, Thai Agriculture Deputy Minister At Taolanon, who joined Anat in Rangoon, said the three-day trip should be considered from a humanitarian point of view rather than political.

"The aim of our trip was to help strengthen the ties between two neighbouring nations which have diplomatic relations. From the Thai point of view, the ruler of the country is not our main consideration, but we saw this visit as a way to help provide the 40 million or so Burmese with more work and to help lift their standard of living," he said.

Details of the agreements are as follows:

—Technical cooperation: The two countries have agreed to set up an exchange programme for technical experts. Thailand has agreed to send experts to help Burma start its own forest-planning programme and to transfer timber-producing technology.

—Forestry concessions: Burma agreed to extend its logging concessions with the Forest Industry Organization of Thailand and said it preferred to retain the concessions with the Thai state enterprise only instead of private Thai companies, at least for now.

—Fishery concessions: Burma agreed to expand its fishing concessions with the Thai-Burmese fishing company. The expansion would allow for an increase in the number of days Thai-Burmese fishing company ships could stay in Burma's territorial waters, from 35 to 41 days per fishing trip.

—Livestock: The two nations agreed to set up a special joint committee to work out ways to control livestock trading along the border. The trading earlier contributed to the spread of foot-and- mouth disease between the two countries.

Government Policy Shift Toward Burma Examined

BK2711134791 Bangkok KHAO PHISET in Thai 18-24 Nov 91 pp 32-35

[Special report by Piyanat Worasiri, Natthawut Rungwong, and Uaiphon Taechutrakun: "Behind the Military Move To Adjust the Policy Towards Burma To Please the United States and To Quash the Base of 'Big Chiu'"]

[Excerpts] On 4 November, Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, who has never paid attention to the Burmese issue, said in a keynote speech that Burma needed a government that abides by democratic rule. The importance of these remarks can be measured from M.R. Khukrit Pramot's comment in his Soi Suan Phlu column a few days later where he called for care when making such remarks.

On 5 November, the Army radio called on the government to review its logging policy with Burma. The radio program said Thailand was to reduce its economic role with Burma.

On 7 November, Bunchu Trithong, a logging merchant with logging concessions in Burma and a big financier of the New Aspiration Party, was willing to lose hundreds of millions of baht by withdrawing from these concessions. On the same night, General Suchinda Khraprayun held a meeting with the prime minister, the foreign minister, the secretary general of the National Security Council, and the Thai ambassadors to Malaysia, Cambodia, and Burma. The meeting lasted for about an hour.

Moves during these few days have raised speculation about possible changes in Thai-Burmese relations. Going into deeper detail, one will find that these activities have been carried out systematically and are related to international and national politics. [passage omitted]

The U.S. and Burma: Saw Muang Is Saddam

"The U.S. is very happy to see East Europe liberalized. The war in the Persian Gulf has taught the lesson that the existence of a country under dictatorship such as that of Saddam Husayn is dangerous to the world and U.S. interests. So, the U.S. wants Burma to be democratic. This is in line with its strategy of creating a new world order," said a senior National Security Council official in charge of Burmese affairs. He admitted that pressure from the U.S. over Burmese affairs has been so strong that the military has to adjust their policy.

The U.S. was the first country to react after the Burmese military fired on its students and people and has led the free world led in exerting pressure on the Burmese Government. As the leader of the free world, it has to play this role. However, national interests are another factor. It seems that a democratic government in Burma will be better for U.S. interests and influence than a dictatorial socialist government.

The influx of narcotics from Burma to the U.S. is still a major problem. The country's great natural resources are also an attraction. Moreover, Burma is a potential strategic staging base for the U.S. 7th fleet if the U.S. bases at Clark and Subic in the Philippines becomes problematic.

After the first bloodshed in Rangoon, the U.S. has tried to oppose Saw Maung. In particular, it coordinated with other Western countries in staging an economic boycott of Burma. Senator Daniel Moynihan pushed through the

Moynihan bill to ban imports of Burmese products or products using Burmese material. There is also support for the opposition in Burma, such as the debates to expose bad things about the Burmese military government or the CIA supplying weapons to Burmese students in 11 camps along the Thai-Burmese borders from Mae Hong Son to Kanchanaburi.

After opposition leader Aung San Sun Kyi won the Noble Peace Prize, the U.S. and the Western European countries have significantly increased their pressure on Burma. Move to have meetings on the Burmese issue at non-government organization and the UN General Assembly and remarks of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during an ASEAN ministerial meeting show the increasing concrete attempts. Importantly, Thailand is seen to be in the best position to pressure Burma, if it could be separated from Burma, and is the first target.

"The U.S. cannot stay idle because after Aung San Suu Kyi won the Noble Prize, documents by non-government organizations have called for more pressure," a minority group leader told KHAO PHISET after returning from the U.S..

Thailand Is in the Best Position To Pressure Burma

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has said clearly that he wants ASEAN to persuade Burma to establish a democracy as soon as possible. Baker is right on target because ASEAN has wished for a long time to associate itself with Burma without any fear for the word "socialism." Philippine Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus has been enthusiastic on this issue while Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin simply said ASEAN would consider it in line with its methods.

However, Asa's calm became haste when Baker asked Asa to convey a aide-memoire to prime minister Anan Panyarachun. A meeting was held later on 7 November in the presence of the Thai ambassador to Burma.

Sakthip Krairoek, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Information Department, said that meeting did not touch on Burma. Baker's aide-memoire only expressed satisfaction with the the government and the National Peacekeeping Council's [NPKC] plan to hold a general election as soon as possible. The message from President Bush to Prime Minister Anan contained just a few words—"We will meet soon." The Thai ambassador to Burma was on an official mission in Thailand. So, Foreign Minister Asa called him to join the meeting.

The director general might sound credible had we not obtained an in-depth report saying the memo had been passed to General Suchinda Khraprayun. A few days later, we also heard the military radio broadcasting an article criticising the Burmese logging concession. Then, Prime Minister Anan's planned visit to the U.S. was disclosed, coming only a few days after his reference to democracy in Burma. This is a surprise to everyone. They are curious about what the U.S. is up to now because throughout the past seven months it has made clear its policy of not inviting a prime minister appointed after a military takeover to visit the U.S.

A key source at a non-governmental organization who has been closely watching Burma told KHAO PHISET that economic sanctions have not been effective in pressuring Burma since private businessmen from many countries, including the U.S., are busily digging for gold in that country. Since the problem in Burma is political, the best source of pressure should come from a country which shares its borders. Throughout history, Burma's problems have been located at the near the Thai border, rather than with India or China. Pressure can easily be put on Burma if Thailand does not obstruct this move.

"The Thai border is a hideout for minorities and resistance groups. Bangkok, meanwhile, is a center transmitting news to the outside world. The Burmese Government would be in trouble if Thailand stopped the flow of goods into Burma—over 60

of goods in Burma has its source in Thailand. If Thailand opted to support the minorities, Burma would be choked because the flow of weapons will easily get into the hands of minorities. If Thailand scaled down its economic relations, the income of the Burmese Government would be affected because Thailand is currently Burma's largest trading partner." he said.

As Thailand played a key role in the settlement of the Cambodian problem, it could do the same with Burma. There is nothing strange if Thailand became an option. And certainly the military, not the government which is under the military, would decide on matters on relations with Burma since it involves Thailand's "security." It is nothing strange therefore to hear the military signal first for an adjustment of policy toward Burma.

A high-level National Security Council official admitted that there has been pressure from the U.S. to adjust its Burma policy. Yet, it is entirely Thailand's right to bend or not. Anyway, several people noted to KHAO PHISET that there are at least three factors prompting it Thailand to adjust its policy. First, recognition from the U.S. and the international community. Second, the fact that the military leader is Suchinda, not Chawalit. Third, the political factor in the country, especially concerning a political party named "New Aspiration."

"When he said Thailand is not a slave of America, he was carried away [reference made to Gen. Suchinda]. From the point of view of international politics, you can never deny recognition from the U.S. The U.S. visit by Prime Minister Anan, the drug patent issue, all are interestingly related to our policy on Burma," a director general at the Foreign Ministry told KHAO PHISET. [passage omitted]

Pressure Is Strong from the West; Thailand Will Have To Bend and Adopt a Double-Standard Policy

"Since the pressure from the West is strong, we will have to adjust our position to make it more flexible," a high-level source at the NPKC told KHAO PHISET.

In short, Thailand will return and adopt a double-standard policy with regards to Burma, that is, maintaining good relations with the Burmese Government and the ethnic minorities, while keeping national interests above everything else. This will be the option after playing the Saw Maung card for nearly two years.

Thailand will only gain from this option. Besides reduced international condemnation, the policy will help improve Thailand's ties with the U.S. As for Burma relations, an assessment has been made with the conclusion that Burma will never turn its back on Thailand. Burma will always need help from Thailand economically. Meanwhile, Burma will try by all means to avert Thailand from exerting political pressure on its western border. In addition to all those, this will be the best solution in solving the domestic political problems.

Trade Department Accepts U.S. Duty on Pipes

BK2711055391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Nov 91 p B1

[by Atchara Phongwutthitham]

[Text] The Foreign Trade Department has refused to petition the US Commerce Department to review its final decision on the countervailing duty rate imposed on Thai steel pipes sold in the American market.

A local exporter had sought the department's intervention in this matter.

According to an informed source, the Thai officials rejected the call by Saha Thai Steel Pipe Co, one of the leading exporters, on the ground that the final tariff rate at 2.86 per cent was much lower than the preliminary estimate.

Although Saha Thai's subsidy was found to amount to 0.90 per cent only, the final countervailing tax on Thai steel pipe, recently announced by the US Commerce Department, will be imposed on all Thai pipe exporters, because the differential between the final rate and Saha Thai's preliminary rate does not exceed five per cent. The differential is only 1.96 per cent.

In a preliminary review, Washington put the initial tariff rate at 7.18 per cent to offset the Thai government subsidies to export-oriented companies in the form of import tax exemption, income tax holidays, low-interest credit and cheaper utility bills.

Saha Thai has complained to the Foreign Trade Department, saying that it was forced to pay a higher tax rate than it should. It said in the letter to the department that the levy on top of the normal import tariff would affect them price and hence its ability to compete in the American market.

Saha Thai estimated that it would have to pay US$375,000 (Bt9.38 million) more if the final tax rate was to apply.

The department, however, would not file a petition with the US counterpart for a review, the source said, because the other three companies found to sell the products below fair price in the US market would be taxed at a lower rate than originally anticipated.

"The petition would help only one company, but hurt the others," the source said.

The US has launched investigations into the export of Thai steel pipes since 1987. The American industry complained that Thai exporters were selling the products below fair price in the US market, because of the Thai government support.

Exporters Told To Improve Food Quality

BK2711060191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Nov 91 p 19

[Text] The Foreign Trade Department yesterday told exporters to improve the quality of their products to meet international standards following the detention of more than $222 million worth of food exports for inspection at the US Customs Office.

The source said food exports to the United States were inspected by the Food and Drug Administration [FDA] and many Thai exports there between October and December last year had been detained because of poor quality.

The total value of detained foods amounted to about $222 million.

However, the source said the detention did not mean the foods would be banned from entering the US.

Importers carrying with them test results from privately owned laboratories, and which were certified by the FDA, can still bring in their foodstuffs.

The source said the automatic detention could be lifted only on the request of companies, persons or foreign governments which could guarantee that the exporters had complied with the FDA's standards of production and transportation, or who had documents showing that all problems had been solved.

The source said Thais food exports were detained for various reasons.

He said rice and rice products were being held after alien objects from insects and animals were found in the mixture. Thai rice exports to the US are now undergoing stricter FDA inspections than exports from other countries.

Fish and marine products were detained because manufacturers did not register their production processes or were found to have unclean production processes.

Traces of salmonella ariz disease had been found in some consignments, while others did not have English labels on the cans and were not registered with the FDA.

Canada Signs Memorandum on Fishery Products

BK2711074691 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] A memorandum of understanding was signed yesterday between Thailand and Canada regarding the inspection of fishery products—a long-standing issue in bilateral trade and cooperation.

Signing on behalf of Thailand were the director general of the Department of Fisheries, the president of the Association of Processed Food, and the president of the Association of Frozen Food and Marine Products Dealers, while Canada was represented by the director general of the Inspection (Directorate) Services, Mr. B. J. (Emberley), with the assistant deputy minister for International and Regulatory Affairs, Dr. Victor (Ravinowitzh) witnessing. The ceremony took place at the Novotel, Bangkok.

Canada maintains high standard in food product inspection. The memorandum of understanding was the result of negotiations held between fisheries authorities of both countries. The draft memorandum was endorsed by the Cabinet on 24 May 1988.

The agreement reached between Thai and Canadian authorities not only facilitates tuna exports from Thailand to Canada but also benefits export of marine products to other countries, especially those in America and Europe.

Essentially, export items from one origin that pass the screening of the Canadian side for 10 to 15 items consecutively will be awarded prefered status, with only one-tenth of the export items to be sampled thereafter. The status can be withdrawn should the sampling yield unsatisfactory result.

An amendment to the memorandum in the form of an annex specifies checking process on export items of canned tunas and frozen prawns. The amended version has won approval from the present administration.

The Department of Fisheries has been authorized to sign annexes to cover further export items without having to refer to the Cabinet again.

Government Offers USSR $50 Million in Credit

BK3011013791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Nov 91 p 15

[Text] The Foreign Ministry, with Finance Ministry and Bank of Thailand approval, has offered US$50 million as packing credit to the Soviet Union to buy coffee and para rubber from Thailand.

The Foreign Ministry's Department of Information said the offer of packing credit to the USSR was aimed at enhancing economic and trade relations between Thailand and the USSR. The credit would help the Soviet Union import products from Thailand under better conditions.

"This will partially help solve the food and raw material shortage in that country," the department said.

King Delivers Birthday Address to Royal Guards

BK0312120091 Bangkok First Army Division Radio in Thai 0955 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Address by King Phumiphon Adunyadet to Royal Guards at trooping of the colors marking his birthday on 3 December—live]

[Text] The queen and I are very pleased to be present among the Royal Guards in their allegiance parade today. Thank you for your pledge and greetings that come from your hearts. May all soldiers also accept my sincere greetings and good wishes.

Our country has been able to preserve national independence and complete freedom until today because the Thai people in all circles observe unity and know how to carry out and complement their different duties. Soldiers have always been an important force in national defense, alleviating people's plights, and development for prosperity and peace. Therefore, regardless of their activities, soldiers must pay utmost regard to national interests. They also must be mentally strong, honest, and united. They must be brave, strong, tough, restrained, and determined to completely carry out their duties. At the same time, they must be attentive to and study new and modern technical developments in order not to be left behind. If obstacles should arise, they must join together to study them using rationality, technical knowledge, and intellect to resolve them without delay. Once they do this, peace and order, progress, security, and unity will result, thus contributing to the completion of all tasks and glorifying their honor and prestige.

May the power of the three gems and all sacred things revered by the Thai people and the power of your sincere loyalty to the nation protect all soldiers from their enemies and dangers and endow them with strong health, minds, and wisdom so that they will be able to complete their minor or major tasks. May all soldiers meet with happiness and prosperity and fulfill their wishes.

Suchinda Orders Reduction in Military Forces

BK3011011591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Nov 91 p A2

[Text] Military chief Suchinda Khraprayun has instructed the army to begin carrying out in fiscal 1992 a 10-year plan to streamline their units, eventually reducing the number of active servicemen by about one-quarter, an army spokesman said.

Maj Gen Chaturit Phromsakha na Sakon Nakhon said Gen Suchinda, supreme commander and army chief, suggested that one of the ways to scale down the size of the armed forces would be to require officers to retire earlier than the current age of 60.

"Army units have been asked to conduct a feasibility study to find out the possible advantages and drawbacks of the early-retirement scheme and present their findings to the army commander in chief by the end of this month," the spokesman said.

He said the early-retirement scheme, if adopted by military units, would be made compulsory rather than voluntary to ensure fairness.

"There must be a clear-cut criterion in determining who should retire at what age to make sure no one is compelled to leave the service under pressure," the spokesman said.

"However, many militarymen have now realized the importance of acquiring non-military skills which would help them to start their own businesses," he said. But the spokesman said he could not tell when the compulsory early-retirement plan could be implemented.

Voluntary early retirement was introduced in the armed forces under the leadership of Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachon in the 1960s.

Chaturit said that under the plan to streamline the army all military units, combat and auxiliary, would be reduced in size, along with the number of army cadets.

In the first five years of the plan (1992-96), the number of active servicemen in army units, except those involved in national development, will be reduced by 15 per cent, according to the spokesman. In the latter half of the 10-year plan (1997-2001), another 10 per cent of total active forces will be cut, he said.

"The 25 per cent of personnel to be cut is equivalent to about 30,000 servicemen," Chaturit said. "The reduction in their numbers will be compensated for by reserve personnel since the current situation in the Southeast Asian region is relatively calm."

The plan to scale down the armed forces was introduced despite the fact that Gen Suchinda has recentldy told reporters in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation that Vietnam remained a threat to Thailand's national security.

He said the army would carry out the streamline plan in a way that would not hurt its current personnel but did not provide details.

'Large' Number of Weapons Seized; Three Arrested

BK0112045491 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Dec 91 p A2

[Text] A large number of war weapons, possibly from the Thai-Cambodian border, were seized and three men arrested by highway police on Friday in northeastern Buriram province, said a press release issued by the Highway Police Division yesterday.

Prasit Nuanmai, 30, Inson Thanwan, 37, and Amnat Kaeopring, 23, were arrested on charges of possessing illegal war weapons after police stopped a tenwheel truck on Chokchai-Det Udom highway in Bukrasang precinct of Nong Ki district. The three men were from Tak, Lamphun and Bangkok respectively.

Under gravel on the bed of the truck, police found 83 rocket propelled grenades [RPG's] four RPG launchers, two rocket propelled grenade launchers, [as published] six antitank rockets, 33 anti-tank booby traps, 64 RPG missiles, 601 60-mm missiles, 342 mortar shells, 300 hand grenades and 118 anti-aircraft shells, among other items, with an estimated value of Bt [Thai Baht] 60 million.

Police said Prasit admitted that he had been hired for Bt50,000 by members of the Karen minority group to deliver the weapons to the group at Wat Le precinct in Phop Phra district of Tak province. Prasit refused to say from whom he had bought the weapons.

Police said they believed the weapons were bought in Cambodia.

Deputy Minister on Rejecting Draft Constitution

BK0312025991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Dec 91 p A3

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan said yesterday that the National Assembly should reject the constitution draft if that is what the public wants.

"If the people don't like the draft, the assembly should vote against it," Michai said.

However, as military leaders have tried to downplay past campaigns against the draft by academics, politicians and student activists numbering in the tens of thousands, it is not clear what extent of dissatisfaction would be considered by the military-installed assembly as "public" disapproval of the draft.

Supreme Commander and Army chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun quipped he had "hundreds of thousands of soldiers" in his hands, in response to the on-going signature campaign by the draft opponents.

When asked whether public rallies against the draft, to be held simultatneously with its last reading by the National Assembly on Saturday, could be regarded as the public's stance against the charter, Michai said: "Possibly."

Such rallies are being planned by student activists from many universities around the country in cooperation with several political parties.

The deputy prime minister said the rejection of the charter draft could mean a delay of the next general election.

However, Michai said the delay should not be for very long because a revised draft could be completed within a month.

Michai explained that a new drafting committee, if formed in the event that the draft was rejected, could merely delete the undemocratic and unpopular points from the existing draft.

A key member of the New Aspiration Party said yesterday that if the draft constitution is not rejected in its third reading, it will be virtually impossible for a future elected parliament to make the charter more democratic.

Wira Musikaphong said democratic-minded MPs in the next parliament would not be able to garner enough support to push for amendments to the constitution as at least three political parties had turned pro-military.

Wira, addressing a seminar on the political situation held in Chiang Mai province on Sunday, named the parties as Samakkhi Tham, Social Action and Chat Thai.

Samakkhi Tham has declared that it would support Supreme Commander and Army chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun for the premiership. The powerful post of Social Action Party secretary general has been given to Suchinda's close friend, Lt Gen Khasem Krasan. Chat Thai's leadership has been taken over by ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sombun Rahong who is close to Air Force Commander in Chief ACM Kaset Rotchananin.

Constitutional amendments would have to be approved by a simple majority or at least 316 votes during a joint sitting of the 270- member Senate and the 360-member House of Representatives.

With support from only 46 MPs, the senators to be appointed by the military would be able to halt any attempt to amend the constitution, Wira said.

The draft charter has been criticized for its provisional clauses that would empower senators to oust an elected government by initiating censure motions or by voting against a royal decree.

Democrat Party leader Chuan Likphai disagreed with Wira's view.

Chuan told the seminar the country would suffer if the draft constitution draft was rejected in its final reading scheduled for Saturday.

Students Stage Anti-Military Rally in Northeast

BK0312024791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Dec 91 pp A1, A2

[Text] More than 3,000 people led by students staged an anti-military rally in Khon Kaen yesterday while two major demonstrations will take place today in the South as part of an intensifying campaign by the student movement against the controversial draft charter.

The student movement is also apparently looking into the possibility of a concerted class boycott, a strategy used during the 1973 pro-democracy uprising that brought down the dictatorial regime of Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachon.

Yesterday's anti-military demonstration took place at Khon Kaen University and was attended by northeastern students, representatives of non-governmental organizations and villagers affected by the army's land resettlement scheme.

The demonstrators strongly criticized the military, accusing it of trying to cling to power by using "undemocratic power" given the Senate under the draft constitution.

Students who led the rally would gather at a democracy monument in the province today and ask the people to join a signature campaign against the draft constitution, their leaders said.

"Many students will not attend class tomorrow (today) because they will have to seek public opinions on the charter draft," said Phong Kaeonoen, a student leader at the Khon Kaen University.

In Songkhla, southern students are to lead a rally this afternoon that will feature a march through Hat Yai district to ask the public to support the extended pro-democracy movement, sources said.

"Students from nine institutions all over the southern region, supported by the southern teachers' federation and non-governmental organizations, will gather at the Prince of Songkhla University at 1 pm and begin a march through Hat Yai district before regrouping at the Hat Yai railway station," one of the sources said.

The rally in Hat Yai is expected to draw big crowds because leading politicians from major parties will take part, said Sunthon Rakrong, leader of the southern students' alliance.

Sunthon said southern university and college students were ready to join a possible nationwide boycott of classes.

"We are waiting for instructions (concerning such a move) from the Students Federation of Thailand [SFT]", the umbrella body of student groups throughout the country, Sunthon said.

"If the SFT wants (the boycott), there will be no problem on our side. Southern students are always ready to fight dictators," he said.

Phichai Sisai, spokesman for the southern teachers' federation, said his group was supporting the students but would not consider staging a strike.

"We are working with teachers' organizations nationwide to strengthen our demand that the draft charter must not pass its final reading," said Phichai.

The military-established National Legislative Assembly is set to decide on the draft this saturday and political observers expect it to pass the document unless the public exerts enormous pressure.

The student movement last week seemed to soften its stand after the interim legislature dropped some controversial points from the draft. But the draft still empowers the non-elected Senate to oust the government.

On Sunday student leaders said the anti-military crusade would go on until Thailand achieves a truely democratic constitution.

In Nakhon Si Thammarat, prodemocracy groups led by students and politicians would organize a demonstration today at the provincial seat, a protest organizer said.

Student activists in the northeastern province of Ubon Ratchathani yesterday issued a statement denouncing the power given the Senate under the draft constitution.

"We call for termination of this embarrassing charter draft," said the statement on behalf of university and college students.

A political rally held in Nakhon Si Thammarat yesterday by the New Aspiration Party attracted thousands of people, as did another organized by the party in Surat Thani.

Daily Holds Roundtable on Political Realignment

BK0112022091 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Dec 91 pp A1-A2

[Text] A political realignment is underway following the latest change to the draft constitution and the order by the military-appointed Assets Examination Committee to seize ex-prime minister Gen Chatichai Chunhawan's assets last week, a NATION Roundtable participant said Thursday.

It could force the military to support a politician as prime minister to stop New Aspiration Party minister to stop New Aspiration Party (NAP) leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut from taking power in the "proxy" political play following the polls.

That was the prediction of Surin Phitsuwan, a leading Democrat, in THE NATION Roundtable discussion organized in the wake of Gen Chatchai's vow to fight back "through democratic means".

However Phokhin Phalakun, an academic close to the NAP, stressed a strongly divergent view to such a deal occurring.

It might be possible that the military had already approached a political party to weaken the campaign by the prodemocracy movement against the draft constitution, he said.

Any politician who would allow himself to become a "proxy" prime minister should be condemned, the academic said.

Surin contended the notion.

"I am the one who used the word "proxy" first, so let me clarify my thinking and say that a proxy may not necessarily be obedient and under control. He has leeway and the skills to do things his way.

"Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun has succeeded by making use of his international recognition as leverage vis-a-vis the military. And who knows, a politician might be beter than Anan at playing the game," Surin said.

He also said that the retention of the military's influence through the 270-member Senate could be seen as merely a self-defence mechanism.

"Anybody who is not Gen Chawalit could be acceptable to the military. Anyone would be alright as long as his administration was somewhat competent," the Democrat said.

Deputy Prachakon Thai leader Decho Sawananon, another participant in the roundtable discussion, dismissed the scenario.

"I don't think the military would think in terms of supporting a politician without military background as prime minister," he said.

Decho suggested that Puangchon Chaothai Party leader Gen Athit Kamlang-ek could be a possible choice of the military to support.

But the military would still fail to block Gen Chawalit, predicted the Prachakon Thai senior member.

"The only way to prevent him from becoming prime minister is the scenario of him losing in the polls," he said. Decho said that Chawalit would win if he runs in a province outside of Bangkok, but could lose if he runs in a military-populated constituency in Bangkok.

"I believe that Gen Chawalit will be clever enough to run outside Bangkok and I predict that nothing will stop him from becoming prime minister" Decho said.

Most participants thought the vow by Chatchai to fight back would have far-reaching implications on pre-election politics. Solidarity secretary general Uthai Phimchaichon, however, downplayed the consequences.

"The military should not be afraid of Chatchai running in the election. How can an MP threaten the present military group which is in command of all the top posts in the three armed forces. Gen Chatchai cannot settle the score with the military," he said.

"Politicians have never harassed the military. Look at past dictators. Late Field Marshal Sarit Thanarit passed away himself. Field Marshal Thanom Kittikhachon and Field Marshal Praphat Charusathian were ousted by students while politicians did nothing. Even Col Narong Kittikachon later sat in Parliament as an MP and he was actually not bothered by other MPs," Uthai said.

Surin, however, offered a scenario whereby Chatchai may want to join a political party which is opposed to the

NPKC [National Peacekeeping Council] as a result of the order seizing his assets. "The first choice (in the former premier's mind) cold be Phalang Tham Party, but since the nature of the two parties differs so much, Chat Thai would probably seek an alliance with the NAP because the two parties have something in common," Surin said.

The NAP's representative to the Roundtable, ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Pruangwit Hongsanan, however, maintained that he did not think his party would agree to a Deal with Chatchai.

At a news conference last Wednesday, Chatchai hinted that he would support Chawalit as the next prime minister now that Army Commander in Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun had "pulled out of the race".

Surin noted that the order to confiscate Chatchai's assets came shortly after the draft constitution passed the National Assembly in the second reading on Nov 25.

It came after the elimination of the party-slate electoral system from the draft which dealt a critical blow to the Samakkhitham Party, he said.

"Although the party pledged suport for Gen Suchinda, it was no secret who sponsored the party. Certainly not the army," he said.

"And if you can recall, the new leader of the Chat Thai Party (ACM Sombun Rahong) was clad in an air force uniform when he showed up at the Rama Garden Hotel to join other Chat Thai leaders at a news conference to confirm his takeover of the top party post. This is yet another indication as to who is making a deal with whom," he said.

Forestry Official on Increased Logging Activities

BK2811074891 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Nov 91 p 5

[Text] Phatthaya—Forest encroachment has reduced sharply since a ban was placed on logging in 1988, but local villagers are suspected of stepping up logging activities, according to Forestry Department Director-General Thiwa Saphakit.

Mr Thiwa told a Forestry Development for the Environment lecture yesterday that the department was not yet satisfied with its measures to suppress illegal logging and forest encroachment.

The department had 243 forest protection units nationwide in 1988 and had increased the number to 491 last year.

A combined 14,076 violations of forestry-related laws have been intercepted by forestry officials since the ban was imposed and 7,087 people have been arrested.

The confiscated logs and logging equipment have an estimated worth of 965 million baht.

The timber confiscated includes 31,381 teak logs measuring 10,344 cubic meters, 550,708 teak planks measuring 4,121 cubic meters, 57,320 logs of other types of timber measuring 36,477 cubic meters and 564,048 planks measuring 8,928 cubic meters.

The equipment confiscated included 418 chainsaws—the most ever in an equivalent period, 970 vehicles, 545 motorcycles, 414 farm tractors and earth movers and about 15,000 other logging items.

Although logs have been imported since the ban was imposed, villagers still strip forests for timber to build homes or for use as firewood.

The department encourages villagers to join community reafforestation efforts.

Mr Thiwa said 171,148 rai of forests was encroached upon last year compared to 240,000 rai in 1989 and 1.5 million rai each in 1986 and 1988. Record encroachment, put at 7.2 million rai, occurred in both 1977 and 1978.

Disafforestation [as published] peaked following a Cabinet ruling in April 1975 allowing encroachers to remain in forested areas which they had already cleared.

Over 50 per cent of Thailand's 321.2 million rai was forested in 1961. The population at the time was only about 18 million.

Mr Thiwa said a satellite survey last year showed forested land had shrunk to 27.9 per cent.

The forestry chief said his department had to serve the 18-point national forestry plan brought into effect by a Cabinet ruling in December 1985 which stated the forested area should not shrink below 40 per cent of the country's total area.

The seventh National Economic and Social Development Plan calls for 25 per cent of the country to consist of conserved forests and another 15 per cent as economic forests.

Mr Thiwa said measures to enhance the environment are essential, including those which would maintain the remaining forests, those which improve and rehabilitate depleted forests and those which cover reafforestation in preserving the environment.

One measure covers the zoning of land into forests and areas suitable for the exploitation of resources as this results in the demarcation of all national forest reserves.

The zoning measure divides forests into conservation areas where no commercial activities are allowed and economic forests where some industry and farming is allowed following the depletion of forests.

The zoning has been completed in 19 provinces and another 44 provinces are expected to be completed within six months.

Logging concessions will no longer be feasible in the near future even though there will be a continued need for timber. Imports are expected to serve this purpose in the short term.

Mr Thiwa said there were not enough government funds to support reafforestation efforts and the private sector must play a key role to satisfy timber demand.

Reafforestation among local people must also be encouraged and extended to meet future timber needs.

A department report said about 22 million rai needed to be reafforested to achieve the goal of maintaining 40 per cent of the total land area as forests, a task expected to take the department about 200 years to achieve given a budget of only about 1,600 baht per rai. Mr Thiwa said that if the logging ban remained in place while imports were difficult and illegal logging continued, then reafforestation efforts would require a major boost in public awareness.

He said people msut be made aware that forests belong to all and help maintain a good environment.

Vietnam

Hanoi To Free Pre-1975 Reeducation Camp Inmates

BK0312061291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0555 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi, Dec 3 (AFP)—Hanoi has begun freeing the approximately 100 prisoners still held in reeducation camps since the fall of the U.S.-backed Saigon government in 1975, an informed Vietnamese source said Tuesday.

The source, who has close ties to the Vietnamese leadership, said the releases began in mid-November and would be completed by February or March.

"In three or four months they will all be free. There will be no one in the reeducation camps detained for crimes committed before 1975," he said.

The remaining "about 100" inmates include former officials of the Saigon government accused of torturing prisoners, as well as Vietnamese accused of spying for the United States or committing acts of sabotage, he said.

Washington has demanded the release of the remaining camp inmates as a condition for normalizing relations and lifting its trade embargo against Vietnam.

But the source said that Hanoi "unilaterally" decided to free the prisoners, denying that their release came on condition that the United States accept them for resettlement.

"Most of them are over 60 years old, and a lot are over 70, so it is not a problem," he said of freeing the inmates, most of whom Hanoi considers hardened criminals.

Close to 100,000 former Saigon military or civilian officials and others linked to the government have passed through Vietnam's reeducation camps since the communist victory in the South in April 1975.

Many have resettled with their families in the United States, which supported Saigon. The source nonetheless stressed that the amnesty would not extend to Vietnamese placed in reeducation camps for political crimes committed after 1975.

He declined to place a figure on the number of political prisoners currently held in Vietnam, stressing that Vietnam considers the treatment of those who break its laws to be an internal matter.

Vo Van Kiet Greets Palestinians, 'Arafat

BK2811160991 Hanoi VNA in English 1420 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 28—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet today warmly greeted the international day for solidarity with the Palestinian people (Nov 29).

In his message, addressed to Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary-general of the United Nations, Ms. Absa Claude Diallo, chairwoman of the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestine state and president of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Chairman Vo Van Kiet said:

"Over the past 40 years, the Palestinian people have gained important achievements in their staunch and persistent struggle to regain their sacred National rights, including the right to self-determination, the right to return to their homeland and to establish an independent and sovereign state."

"The Vietnamese Government and people always support the Palestinian people's just struggle and welcome PLO's goodwill in participating in the Middle East Peace Conference held in Madrid aimed at finding an overall solution to Middle East question. We think that the basis for the comprehensive settlement of the Middle East issue is that Israel must withdraw all its troops from the Arab and Palestinian territories it has occupied."

"We believe that the Palestinian peoples' hard and staunch struggle led by PLO and supported by the United Nations as well as the progressive people in the world will certainly be crowned with final victory."

On this occasion, the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity With the Palestinian People also extended its greetings to President 'Arafat.

Nguyen Huu Tho Addresses Francophone Conference

BK0112133191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 27 Nov 91

["Text" of speech by Nguyen Huu Tho, vice chairman of the SRV Council of State, delivered at the Fourth Summit Conference of Francophone Countries held in Paris 19-21 November; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] His Excellency Francois Mitterrand, president of the Republic of France,

Excellencies Heads of States, Prime Ministers, and Heads of delegations,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Before presenting an abridged report on the political situation which is a part of the full report on the world politico-economic situation, please allow me, on behalf of Socialist Republic of Vietnam delegation, to convey our highest salutations to His Excellency Francois Mitterrand, chairman of the Fourth Summit Conference of Francophone Countries. May I also convey our warm greetings to heads of states, prime ministers, and heads of delegations at this summit, as well as our warm welcome to Laos and Cameroon, the two latest official members of the summit. Last but not least, we welcome delegates from Bulgaria, Cambodia, and Romania, who are attending this summit conference as observers.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, our summit conference was held at the time when the international situation has developed swiftly and profoundly. For this reason, in our capacity as heads of states and prime ministers of Francophone countries, we should together review major events since the last summit conference in Dakar and appraise the causes and consequences of these events.

During the past two years, we have witnessed—in all continents—developments that have upset the politico-strategical balance. The recent profound changes in Eastern and central European countries have ended the period of bipolar opposition in the continent. The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe held a year ago has resulted in the signing in Paris of the charter for a new Europe. Moreover, each one of us has realized that tension has increased within nations, among nationalities and societies, and between races, over their past conflicts. This has created profound concern to all.

The African Continent has also experienced major developments. In South Africa, under pressure of the black majority and the international community, many measures have been taken to ensure justice, promote democracy, and eliminate apartheid. Other developments include Namibia regaining its independence; the likelihood of the signing of a treaty to restore peace and security in Angola; and new efforts of African countries to reform their politico-economic situation. All of these are consistent with the legitimate aspirations of nations, and have created positive factors for developing the political situation in the continent. However, regional conflicts are continuing. The economic recession and its social consequences have created serious concerns for all, because these are causes that may lead to poverty and hunger for tens of millions of people. The military coup in Haiti has created an acute atmosphere of opposition. Regarding this issue, we think that it is necessary to respect the Haitian people's right to self-determination.

The Middle East peace conference in Madrid is yet another positive factor because it has created possibilities for direct negotiations between the parties concerned. However, the correct and long-term solution for the Arab-Israeli and Israeli-Palestinian conflicts must include the recognition of the Palestine people's eligible rights to self-determination as well as their rights to have their own fatherland, and the rights of each nation in the region to live within recognized border lines in peace and security.

Resolutions for solidarity with Lebanon were adopted in previous summits. As a result, at this fourth summit conference, we should warmly welcome the Taif Agreement and support the Lebanese people's struggle for national reconciliation and restoral of security in their country.

This summit conference also calls for a comprehensive implementation of UN Resolution Number 425, which is aimed at reestablishing Lebanon's full sovereignty over all of its territories.

Nine months after the Gulf War, its consequences are still the main concern of the United Nations, as well as the world community.

In Asia, the signing of the Cambodian peace accord on 23 October has opened up prospects for a new era of nations in the region—especially for Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam—and for building a Southeast Asia of peace, stability, cooperation, and prosperity.

Indeed, over the past two years, all people have recognized the United Nation's increasingly important role in resolving conflicts in the region, especially the great efforts made toward peace by his excellency the UN secretary general and the UN Security Council.

The international community warmly welcomes these efforts. On this occasion, it is necessary to recall the UN charter's principle of respecting independence, national sovereignty, and peace in the world, and the principle of maintaining international security. We contend that these are two unseparable issues.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, all of us have expressed serious concern over the tragic consequences of hunger, poverty, and catastrophe caused by men to the environment. We will return to this problem when we come to discussions on issues related to the economic situation, the environment, and development.

However, it is obvious that peace and security cannot be achieved without development and vice versa. This is because the political situation is closely associated with the economic situation, while the latter has a close relationship with the environment at both the national and international level. Environmental damage and failure to stop the deteriorating relationship between the environment and the economic situation are the causes leading to poverty and backwardness.

Examining the international political situation in close association with the world environmental situation on the global scale since the Dakar Summit Conference, we contend that all nations are required to take more responsibility to strengthen unity and make more efforts to resolve conflicts through peaceful negotiations, strive to restore international economic relations, and establish a new world economic order in a fair and rational fashion.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, our community represents nations in all five continents. For hundreds of millions of peoples, the French language symbolizes the aspirations of the freedom, equality, and fraternity of mankind.

To conclude this abridged report, we would like to express our firm confidence that the community of Francophone countries will be strengthened and developed further if efforts are uniformly made to promote cultural, scientific-technological, and economic cooperation. Through these efforts, the community of Francophone countries will be able to contribute to strengthening unity among nations, maintaining peace, and protecting the environment on our planet.

Returns From Conference 1 Dec

BK0212141491 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] On 1 December, Comrade Nguyen Huu Tho, vice chairman of the SRV Council of State and head of the Vietnamese delegation, returned to Hanoi after attending the Fourth Summit Conference of Francophone Countries. The summit conference was held in Paris recently.

Bank, EC Agreement on 'Reintegration' Program

BK2811114791 Hanoi VNA in English 0613 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 28—An agreement on the Vietnam Commercial Bank's participation in the European Council programme for reintegration of repatriated Vietnamese was signed in Hanoi on Nov. 27.

The documents stipulate terms and procedures for credit funds granted by the EC and deposited at the Vietnam Commercial Bank aimed at helping those Vietnamese repatriated from refugee camps abroad [to] quickly reintegrate in the community. In the first phase, these credits shall be used to help repatriates in Quang Ninh, Haiphong and Ho Chi Minh City.

Signatories were Chu Van Nguyen, deputy governor of the Vietnam State Bank, Dong Xuan Lan, deputy general director of the Vietnam Commercial Bank, and Jean Marie Warnon, director of the EC programme for Vietnam.

The EC has committed US dollars 11.5 million to the trial phase of the programme which will run until the end of March 1992.

Australia Agrees To Long-Term Contract on Wheat

BK2811101891 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Australia has agreed to sell to Vietnam 100,000 tonnes of wheat a year over the next five years.

The Australian Wheat Board said in Canberra on Monday that the first shipment of 100,000 tonnes will go to Vietnam in the first half of 1992. Australia this year sells to Vietnam 50,000 tonnes of wheat. The agreement was signed by Trade Minister Neal Blewett during his visit to Vietnam last week. This is the first long-term contract for wheat between the two countries and will make Australia the biggest wheat supplier to Vietnam.

Air Transport Agreement Signed With Brunei

BK2911095191 Hanoi VNA in English 0633 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 29—An agreement on air transport was signed between Vietnam and Brunei on Thursday. The agreement is the outcome of a three-day vist here by a Brunei delegation led by Communications Minister Dato Seri Zakaria. Mr. Zakaria and his party, who arrived on Wednesday, were received by Premier Vo Van Kiet following the conclusion of the agreement. The premier said he was glad with the good developmwnt of relations between the two countries which, with the air transport agreement, have reached a new turning point.

Vietnam will do its best to strengthen its friendship and cooperation with Brunei on the basis of mutual understanding and mutual trust. The Brunei minister said his country was ready to grant Vietnam favourable terms for the expansion of cooperation in areas of shared interest. He also said that the sultan and people of Brunei would be happy to receive the Vietnamese premier in their beautiful, hospitable country in the near future.

Soviet Freighter 'Safely' Enters Ba Ngoi Port

BK0312150891 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] On 26 November, a 12,000-tonnage Soviet freighter entered Ba Ngoi port safely for the first time to carry export white sand from Khanh Hoa Province.

Ba Ngoi port, an important commercial port in Cam Ranh District, was turned over to Khanh Hoa Province for management and utilization by the Ministry of Communications, Transport, and Post recently.

The safe passage of heavy tonnage vessels to and from Ba Ngoi port has opened substantial prospects for the export of salt and white sand by Khanh Hoa Province, as it will help reduce the considerable expenses that have usually been paid for the transportation these commodities from other ports.

Indian Business Delegation Arrives 29 Nov

BK2911160791 Hanoi VNA in English 1446 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 29—A six-member business delegation from the Indo-Vietnames Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IVCCI) led by Mr. R.K. Khanna, general manager of the Project and Equipment Corporation of India Ltd, arrived in Ho Chi Minh City on Wednesday for a ten-day visit to Vietnam.

According to Mr. Ranjan Bhatnagar, IVCCI Managing Committee member, the Indian delegation's objective is to explore possibilities for increasing two-way trade with particular emphasis on increasing imports from India and exploring possibilities for setting up joint ventures in Vietnam.

"It was only in 1988-1989 that India had a favourable trade balance with Vietnam", he said. "This was not so in 1989-1990 and 1990-1991, when India had an adverse trade balance of rs.222 crores and rs.73 crores respectively. Thus there is substantial scope for India to increase its exports to Vietnam".

This is the second IVCCI-sponsered delegation to visit Vietnam. The first, which was here in December 1990, evoked a good response. Even during its short stay, delegation members signed contracts worth rs.2 crores and generated business queries worth rs.5 crores and generated business queries worth rs. 5 crores. "India should not lag behind all in all. Vietnam has been engaging the attention of the world", Mr. Bhatnagar said.

UNDP Sponsors Transportation Research Project

BK2611104191 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] The United Nations Development Program [UNDP] has recently sponsored a research project on communications and transportation in Vietnam to find ways and means to meet the current demands in this field. The project is being carried out by the UN Development and Technical Cooperation Department [UNDTCD] and France's Center for Research and Planning of Foreign Projects.

The purpose of this project is to investigate and appraise the present communications and transportation situation in Vietnam so as to determine the essential facilities to meet demands at present and in the future as well as to create favorable conditions for international cooperation and investment.

On 18 November the SRV Ministry of Communications, Transportation and Posts, with coordination from UN development agencies, organized a second seminar on project VIE-88040 dealing with communications and transportation in Vietnam to contribute more ideas to previous reports already submitted by UN specialists. This is aimed at providing more information for these specialists to finalize the draft plan for this project.

Attending the seminar were His Excellency (Michael Rotrio), deputy head of the UNDP in Vietnam, representatives from UNDTCD and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, UN specialists, and more than 120 delegates from agencies concerned.

Reports delivered at the seminar expressed an identity of views on issues related to the research methodology for the third stage, which is aimed at effectively serving investment in Vietnam's communications, transportation, and postal services.

State Planning Commission To Receive UNDP Aid

BK2911154791 Hanoi VNA in English 1454 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 29—The project document for Project Vie/90/007 technical assistance to the Vietnam State Planning Committee was signed in Hanoi on 29 November 1991 by Mr. Mai Ky, vice chairman of the State Planning Committee, on behalf of the government of Vietnam, and Mr. David Smith, resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), on behalf of UNDP.

The project, with UNDP contribution of USd 1,499,500 and a duration of 30 months, will be implemented by the State Planning Committee in collaboration with the General Statistics Office, and executed by the World Bank.

The project is intended to strengthen the capacity of the State Planning Committee in the areas of development theory and planning, statistics and projections and the generl management of the economy.

Through a joint effort between the State Planning Committee and the General Statistics Office, it will also provide for a living standards measurement study of Vietnamese households, providing the information and methodology that would allow the government to assess the likely effects of variour policies on living standards.

UNFPA Director at Population Planning Forum

Vo Van Kiet Welcomes Director

BK2811101591 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] On the afternoon of 25 November at the Presidential Palace, Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet received Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).

On behalf of the Vietnamese state and people, Chairman Vo Van Kiet welcomed Dr. Sadik for her official visit to Vietnam and her attendance at the Forum on Population in Vietnam. He considered the visit a good symbol of the fine cooperative relations between the UNFPA and Vietnam.

The chairman highly evaluated UNFPA assistance to Vietnam's population and family planning programs.

Dr. Sadik sincerely thanked Chairman Vo Van Kiet for the reception. She welcomed the efforts of the Vietnamese state and people in implementing the population and family planning programs. She also highly valued the close cooperation between the UNFPA and Vietnam.

Mr. David Smith, representative of the UNFPA in Vietnam, and Ms. Sheila MacRae, national director of the UNFPA in Vietnam, were also present at the reception.

Forum Speeches, Events Reported

BK2911134591 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Report on opening of the "Forum on Vietnam's Population Program" including speech by Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the Council of Ministers, in Hanoi on 26 November]

[Text] The National Commission for Population and Family Planning [NCPFP], in coordination with the UN Fund for Population Activities [UNFPA], held a Forum on Vietnam's Population Program at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall on 26 November.

Attending the forum were Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the Council of Ministers and head of the National Commission for Population and Family Planning; Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director of the UNFPA; representatives of various public organs and mass organizations; ambassadors; charge d'affaires; and representatives of various local and international organizations.

On behalf of Vietnam and the NCPFP, Chairman Vo Van Kiet delivered an opening speech. After welcoming those distinguished guests and representatives taking part in the forum, Chairman Vo Van Kiet said:

[Begin Vo Van Kiet recording] Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished delegates: In Vietnam, the population issue has long been regarded as a key factor to socioeconomic development. The Vietnamese Government has adopted many measures aimed at implementing this population and family planning program. After 30 years of implementing this program which has undergone more than a decade of devastating war, the average population growth rate dropped from 2.49 percent during the 1961-70 period to 2.02 percent during the 1981-1990 period, and the average number of children a fertile woman can have is down from six to four. However, these figures show that we should move forward more vigorously so we can attain the target of one to two children per family. Reality shows that the implementation of a national program for population and family planning is a long, complex, and difficult process. This is because it is, first of all, associated with changes in mankind's perceptions which, in turn, are influenced by various factors—culture, psychology, society, economics, and people's knowledge.

It is because they are living in a less-developing country heavily influenced by feudalistic and backward beliefs that the average Vietnamese people have held, for many generations now, that they are better off having many children. As Vietnam's technical skills are still poor in agricultural production, it needs to maintain an abundant manual labor force. For every rural household, this is also the reasoning that hinders efforts to achieve the target set by the population program. This is precisely why the population issue should be resolved and can only be positively resolved within the general framework of the development strategy.

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished delegates, to bring the country out of poverty and backwardness, improve the people's lives, and create conditions for the country to achieve faster growth at the beginning of the 21st century, Vietnam's population program is being carried out as outlined in the Communist Party of Vietnam's platform for achieving economic stability and development until the year 2000. This program calls for uniform implementation of the population strategy in the three spheres—namely population size, population structure, and distribution of population—in an effort to reduce the annual population growth rate by between .004-.006. [end recording]

The chairman pointed out that to successfully carry out the population program in the years ahead when money raised domestically is still not adequate, we will need international financing, which is now regarded as very valuable and important.

On behalf of the government and people of Vietnam, Chairman Vo Van Kiet extended his sincere and profound gratitude to the governments of various countries, to the many local and international organizations, and especially to the UNFPA.

The Chairman expressed hope that through this forum, with greater understanding of those problems encountered by and those objectives to be achieved by Vietnam's population program, these governments and organizations will find feasible and appropriate methods to make contributions to this humanitarian program.

Speaking at the forum, Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director of the UNFPA, expressed her joy over revisiting Vietnam after eight years, where she has witnessed remarkable social, economic, and political change. She said that in Vietnam, the UNFPA is working closely with the local government to achieve the above objectives, taking into account the population size and socioeconomic standards. Vietnam is regarded as one of those countries receiving priority assistance from the UNFPA. All the assistance programs carried out by the UNFPA totally conform to internationally recognized standards on human rights. In addition, the UNFPA also realizes that only when every woman and every man voluntarily apply family planning measures can the objectives of the population policy be achieved.

She expressed hope that Vietnam's population program will help various governments and international organizations improve their understanding about those essential problems now being confronted by Vietnam. She expected that governments and international organizations will be able to grasp the situation in Vietnam so they can examine their special capabilities to provide assistance to Vietnam to improve the situation and the living standards of the Vietnamese people who have, over the past several decades, endured untold suffering. She hoped that these countries and organizations will strive to help Vietnam materialize this program.

At the forum, delegates also heard:

—Professor Mai Ky, deputy head of the State Planning Commission and also deputy head of the National Commission for Population and Family Planning, report on some essential matters regarding Vietnam's socioeconomic situation and guidelines for the period ahead.

—Candidate Doctor Nguyen Luc, permanent deputy head of the National Commission for Population and Family Planning, report on Vietnam's population situation and on prospects for the 1991-95 population and family planning program.

—Dr. Sheila MacRae, director of the UNFPA Office in Hanoi, report on the UNFPA assistance program—the third and fourth phases—in Vietnam.

Director Visits Women's Confederation

BK2911130791 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] On 25 November, Ms. Nafis Sadik, executive director of the UN Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) paid a working visit to the Central Office of the Vietnamese Women's Confederation. Dr. MacRae, national director of the UNFPA in Vietnam and Mr. (Bernard Cokin) accompanied Ms. Sadik on the visit. Receiving the UNFPA delegation was Mr. Nguyen Thi Than, vice chairman of the Vietnamese Women's Confederation.

Since 1984, the UNFPA has assisted the Vietnamese Women's Confederation with nearly $500,000 in the B12 and B01 programs. These programs are the public education program on population and the money lending program for family economic business. The programs aim at improving the position of women in the family.

With the practical and useful results from the programs, UNFPA will continue to assist the Vietnamese Women's Confederation in 1992-1995 to create favorable conditions for the confederation to actively take part in the Population Program and the Family Planning Program.

Concludes 5-Day Visit

BK2711160191 Hanoi VNA in English 1353 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov.27—The executive director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), Dr. Nafis Sadik, left here today concluding her five-day working visit to Vietnam.

While in Vietnam, the UNFPA executive director had working sessions with senior officials of the State Planning Commission, the Ministries of Public Health and Education and Training, the Vietnam Women Union, the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, the General Department of Statistics, and the People's Committee of Ha Tay Province, 40 km west of Hanoi.

On those occasions, she exchanged ideas with the Vietnamese officials on issues relating to Vietnam's population and family planning programme and measures to make it more effective in the coming period.

Dr. Nafis Sadik also attended a forum on Vietnam population programme held here yesterday by the State Commission on Population and Family Planning.

Joint-Foreign Investment Projects Reported

Communication, Transport Sectors Benefit

BK2811101191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] The communication, transport, and postal sector has won 28 foreign investment projects with a total investment capital of $165 million and obtained about $240 million in loans and aid from foreign countries.

Japan and Australia, as well as Southeast Asian and Western European countries, have established many joint ventures, mainly in the areas of telecommunications, maritime transport, and equipment assembly.

After a period of cooperation in investment with foreign companies, many projects have yielded results, amassing profits for all parties concerned and encouraging various countries to continue paying attention to investment in such projects as INTERSTAT, an international telecommunications network, and GEMATRANS, a joint venture in maritime transport.

In the coming years the sector will strive to obtain $200 million annually from both sources of investment and loans and aid.

Six More Investors Licensed

BK3011070091 Hanoi VNA in English 0604 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov.30—Six foreign investment projects involving a total capital of US dollars 32.3 million were licensed last week, including French, Malaysian and Chinese.

A 100-percent foreign-funded undertaking is run by trade ocean exporters SDN-BHD Penang, Malaysia. It is licensed to process farm produce and seafood for export.

Taj international is a joint venture between a Vietnamese Company, Tajaco-Hue, and the Societe De Participation Financiere Europene of France. It has a capital of US dollars 9 million, of which US dollars 2.7 million is prescribed capital. Forty percent of the prescribed capital will be contributed by the Vietnamese company and the rest by the French partner. During its 20 years of operation, the joint venture will engage in shrimp rearing and seafood processing for domestic consumption and export. The profit tax is fixed at 18 percent of real profits, and other taxes are to be paid at rates determined by existing laws.

A joint venture creates a partnership between Hoakimex, the union of production, import-export enterprises in Hoan Kiem precinct of Hanoi, and a district trading company in Guangxi province in southern China. With the US dollars 0.2 million legal capital equally divided between the two parties, the joint venture is licensed to set up a hotel and a restaurant serving Chinese cuisine. In addition, a dispensary is to be opened selling Vietnamese and Chinese herbal medicines.

Tan an industrial company is an undertaking belonging to Hung Il Enterprises Co. Ltd of Taiwan. It is permitted to produce cardboard packaging paper, cement bags, and to market these domestically and internationally.

Of the joint ventures licensed last week, the one between Binh Tay Union of Production, Import-Export Enterprises (Ho Chi Minh City) and the Edison Industrial Ltd. (Taiwan) has a capital of more than US dollars 16 million. The joint venture will upgrade the existing Tan Binh market in the sixth precincts of Ho Chi Minh City. The duration of the venture is five years.

Petroleum, Mining Operations Established

BK0112083191 Hanoi VNA in English 0533 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 1—Most noteworthy among the foreign-investment events in November is the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Petroleum Authority of Thailand and its Vietnamese counterpart for the establishment of a natural gas factory in Vietnam.

The factory, the first of its kind in Vietnam, will be built in Vung Tau, Ba Ria-Vung Tau Province, more than 100 kilometers east of Ho Chi Minh City, with a design annual capacity of 300 million cubic meters. The product will be exported to Thailand. Crude is supplied directly by the oil wells at Bach Ho. Investment capital totals US dollars 140 million.

Vung Tau, the biggest center of the young Vietnamese oil industry, is drawing more and more foreign investors, contracts have been signed to lay pipelines capitalized at US dollars 120 million, to build a 600,000-ton urea plant by the protech company of Canada at the cost of USD 140 million, and a 340-MW thermal electric power plant by the Marubeni and Nissho Iwai companies of Japan at a cost of US dollars 340 million. The oil companies total of France, Shell of Holland and Britain, and Nippon Mining, Nissho Iwai and JGC of Japan have worked out plans to tap a total of 70,000 barrels a day from Vung Tau. [sentence as received] The projects are capitalized at from US dollars 900 million to US dollars 1.2 billion.

More than 20 major Australian companies including Convictory, International Mineral Exploration, Newcrest Mining Glemar Trading, and Techport Australia are negotiating with the Vietnamese Ministry of Heavy Industry for cooperation or joint ventures in gold mining and industry in the provinces of Quang Nam-Da Nang, Lam Dong, Thanh Hoa and Bac Thai. Australian companies are inquiring into possibilities for technical cooperation or joint venture in the production of electric cable, mining and processing of copper, are earth, chromite and gems and in the expansion of the Lao Cai apartite mine.

Also in November, the Vietnam Meat Corporation (VISSAN), and the Genscors company of Hong Kong inaugurated a tannery named Vissangens. The joint venture has a prescribed capital of US dollars 500,000 and a capacity of 250 tons per shift. Its maturity is ten years.

Raw materials for the tannery will be supplied by Vietnam while Hong Kong will supply equipment and market the products.

Commentary Views International Economic Links

BK0112140791 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Station Commentary]

[Text] For several months now, Australia has been aware that the isolation of Vietnam does not serve its interests. That is why it has promoted its relations with Vietnam.

Australia has signed an agreement on a certain number of investments in Vietnam. Right after that, it declared to resume aid to Vietnam. Meanwhile, the EFIC—Export, Finance, and Insurance Company—of Australia will resume short-term insurance for export goods from Australia to Vietnam. The Australian Government also disclosed that from now on, annual trade growth between the two countries will increase regularly by 60 percent. Particularly, Vietnam and Australia have concluded in Hanoi a contract on telecommunications, transport, and posts worth $250 million.

The BANGKOK POST, in a recent issue, maintained that Australia is effectively and successfully operating in Vietnam. Besides, France is turning a deaf ear to the U.S. economic sanctions against Vietnam and steadily approaching Vietnam, as well as Cambodia and Laos. It is not accidental that French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas is the first Western European senior leader to the three Indochinese countries following the signing of the peace agreement on Cambodia.

In Vietnam, the French top diplomat declared a number of the French Government's important decisions toward Vietnam. Worthy of note is that France will double its investment capital in Vietnam to 95 million francs. France (?has affirmed) to help Vietnam restore and determine its position and role in the international arena, particularly in the international organizations. At the same time, the French Government calls on French businessmen to come to this country. At present, the number of French businesses present in Vietnam doubled that of last year.

Japan in the past did not share its view on trade relations with Vietnam. Now, Japan has twice reaffirmed its determination to cooperate with Vietnam. Early this month, Tokyo informed its decision to resume aid to Vietnam and Cambodia. During his visit to Japan, U.S. State Secretary James Baker met with indifference when he proprosed that Japan stop aid to Vietnam until the U.S. lifts its embargo.

Meanwhile, many large delegations of Japanese businessmen have come to Vietnam, starting from the delegation of 35 big Japanese companies such as Mitsubishi, Sumitomo; the delegation comprising 2,000 members of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce; to the delegation of Mitsui Company. They come to seek opportunities to do business with Vietnam in the fields of oil and natural gas, heavy industry, and banking. Now it is predicted that trade value between Japan and Vietnam will reach $1,000 million.

Other countries, including Britain, Holland, and Germany have come to Vietnam with many large projects. Worthy of note is that Britain which recently was very cautious in its cooperative relations with Vietnam, now seems to have overcome it. Britain's minister of energy has visited Vietnam and affirmed his country's willingness to cooperate with Vietnam, particularly in the field of oil (?production) and exploitation.

A South Korean trade delegation is going to visit Vietnam soon. It is said to be composed of more than 30 members representing well-known corporations in South Korea, such as Daewoo, Hyundai, [word indistinct], and others. They come to Vietnam this time with the aim of further strengthening economic cooperation with Vietnam.

Obviously, relations between Vietnam and other countries in the world have been expanded and developed. This will serve the interests of both Vietnam and these countries. Moreover, Vietnam has been affirmed as an entity which can stand firm in doing business.

Decree Issued on State-Run Economic Units

BK2911102591 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] On 20 November 1991, the Council of Ministers issued a decree on the formation and dissolution of state-run economic units. The decree will apply to all state-run economic units belonging to the central and local governments. Economic units formed before this decree must reregister in conformity with the decree.

These regulations apply only to units formed without foreign capital or capital contributed by other non-state economic sectors. Economic units formed by foreign capital are regulated by the Law on Foreign Investment in Vietnam, while those formed with capital from non-state economic sectors are regulated by the Company Law.

The Council of Ministers also issued an act on the formation and dissolution of state-run economic units.

Doan Khue Addresses Military Technology Institute

BK2811150991 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Report by Quoc Viet]

[Summary] "The second-round party organization congress of the Military Technology Institute coincided with the commemoration of Vietnam Teachers' Day, thus making all feel more enthusiastic and confident in their efforts to satisfactorily implement the task entrusted by the Ministry of National Defense.

"General Doan Khue, member of the Political Bureau, deputy secretary of the party Central Committee Military Commission, and minister of national defense, attended and addressed the congress."

At present, the institute has 116 doctors and master degree holders, 30 professors and assistant professors, and hundreds of teaching cadres. The institute's party organization has taken many practical measures to develop teachers' strengths both in terms of teaching and scientific research.

"Expressing his views to the congress, Gen. Doan Khue praised the past achievements scored under the party organization's leadership. Dealing with the orientations and tasks for the 1991-95 five-year period, Gen. Doan Khue pointed out that the institute has scored a number of achievements in training and scientific research. Nevertheless, it should make greater efforts, considering its capabilities and important role.

"Gen. Doan Khue called everyone's attention to two key tasks. Regarding training, the party organization and management board must, first of all, firmly grasp the objectives of the training program and make sustained efforts to renovate the contents of its curriculum and improve teaching and learning methods so as to enhance the quality of training activities. It is of utmost importance to equip each trainee with a sound political background so he can have a firm stance and heighten his sense of responsibility and spirit of self-reliance and self-sufficiency. This is a key factor for military technology cadres in serving the army and people.

"Along with a sound political background, trainees must have skills and professionalism in order to discharge their duties. It is necessary for the institute to attach importance to trainees' ability to put theory into practice.

"Gen. Doan Khue also reminded everyone of the need to make constant efforts to help trainees with ethical and theoretical education as well as with the acquisition of a solid understanding of party policies and lines.

"Regarding scientific research, Gen. Doan Khue pointed out that it is necessary to use the concrete situations of our country and army to work out research projects to benefit national defense and construction.

"He stressed that for scientific research to bear fruit, scientists must achieve unity, be willing to learn from one another, share responsibility, and show mutual respect. Only by so doing can they create strength to guarantee success for the various research projects and meet the requirements of the actual situations facing the army and nation.

"Regarding the institute's party-building work, he said: Along with building and improving the contingent of party members, it is necessary to enhance the militancy of each party installation and each party member and implement the principle of democratic centralism. The whole party, army, and people are enthusiastically carrying out emulation to translate the Seventh Party Congress resolution into reality. This is a very urgent problem.

"Gen. Doan Khue reminded the institute's party organization and management board of the need to remain very sensitive and flexible, clearly defining the objectives and orientations and working out effective measures to materialize them."

To implement the congress' resolution and Gen. Doan Khue's instructions, the delegates worked out a practical program of actions consistent with the concrete situations facing the institute and the nation at present.

Workshop on Parent Education Held 26 Nov

BK2711075491 Hanoi VNA in English 0628 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 27—A national workshop on evaluation of the parent education project (1988-91) closed here yesterday after two days' sitting.

Workshop, sponsored by the Ministry of Education and Training, was attended by representatives from various preschool education institutions throughout the country.

The project, codenamed VIE/88/P08 [as received], and funded by UNPA [expansion unknown], UNESCO and UNICEF, has been executed in 32 precincts and districts of 15 provinces and cities including Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

Basic surveys conducted among 4,000 parents and 2,000 kindergarten and creche nurses show that good results have been obtained in educating parents with customs, practices, habits, traditions, etc. Thousands of lecturers on parent education were trained, thus helping parents have a better care for their children's life and education.

Winter-Spring Rice Crop Planting Detailed

BK2611154091 Hanoi VNA in English 1451 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov.26—Farmers throughout the country plan to put 2,202,700 hectares under the 1991-1992 winter-spring rice crop, about 100,000 hectares more than the same crop a year ago.

To ensure enough water for more than 2.2 million hectares of the winter-spring crop and 1,265,000 hectares of the summer-autumn crop next year, the water conservancy service has called upon the Mekong Delta, central highlands and northern mountain provinces to repair and strengthen all irrigation works that were recently damaged by floods. Meanwhile it called on the Red River delta provinces and Thanh Hoa Province to dredge their canals and dams.

Irrigation has helped increase crop output in the Mekong River Delta, the biggest rice producer of Vietnam, from 4.5 million tons of paddy in 1975 to 9.5 million tons in 1990 and even to 10 million tons this year despite prolonged floods which hit hard the area in September last.

In three successive crops this year, farmers in the southern provinces harvested a total of 10.8 million tons of paddy: 4.1 million tons in the 1990-91 winter-spring crop, 3.7 million tons in the summer-autumn crop, and 3 million tons in the recent crop.

Australia

Government To Delay Recognizing Ukraine

BK0312045991 Hong Kong AFP in English 0341 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Canberra, Dec 3 (AFP)—Australia will take "a wait and see" attitude on recognising the independence of Ukraine, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

Poland and Canada earlier followed the example of Russia and recognised Ukraine, whose citizens voted four-to-one in favour of independence from the Soviet Union on Sunday.

A spokesman for Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said, however, that the Australian Government "would not be rushing towards recognition".

The government will take into account the Ukrainians' vote for independence, he said, but the developing relationships between Soviet republics will also be a factor in any decision on Australian recognition of Ukraine.

"We will take a 'wait and see' approach," the spokesman said.

Hawke Meets East Timorese Resistance Group

BK0312074891 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Australia's industry minister, John Button, has decided he will go to Indonesia next week. The trip was in doubt following the mass shooting of East Timorese in Dili three weeks ago.

Meanwhile, Australia's Prime Minister Bob Hawke yesterday met a representative of East Timor's Fretilin resistance, Jose Ramos Horta, and other members of an East Timorese delegation. It is the highest level Australian Government contact with Fretilin for several years.

The delegation wants the Australian Government to stop all ministerial visits to Indonesia and to support self-determination for the East Timorese.

Meeting Called 'Disappointing and Futile'

BK0312113291 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 3 Dec 91

[From the "International Report" program presented by Brian Hedden]

[Text] East Timorese resistance leaders today had their first official meeting with an Australian prime minister, but described it as disappointing and futile. The five-member Timorese delegation called on Bob Hawke to recognize East Timor's right to self- determination, but afterwards said there was no change in Australia's approach. The delegation included representatives of the Timorese Democratic Union, UDT, and the Fretilin resistance spokesman, Jose Ramos Horta. From Canberra, Graham Dobell reports:

[Begin recording] [Dobell] The Timorese delegation said Mr. Hawke had an historic chance to make a stand to give it international [word indistinct] and change the course of Timor's history. In a 10-minute meeting with the prime minister and then in two hours of talks with the foreign minister, Gareth Evans, the Timorese asked Australia to support an act of self-determination in East Timor—in effect, to step away from Australia's legal recognition of the Indonesian incorporation of East Timor. But one member of the delegation, a vice president of the Timorese UDT, Mr. Joao Carrascalao, said the talks were futile exercise because Australia would not move.

[Carrascalao] We are very disappointed and we expected something new from the prime minister of Australia, and nothing new was shown to us.

[Dobell] Do you accept the government's position that we should wait until the Indonesian Government's inquiry is completed before setting any further step?

[Carrascaloa] I thought of it [word indistinct] I do not accept that position because that is the same as asking a criminal to judge his own act.

[Hedden] Fretilin representative Jose Ramos Horta said the Dili massacre three weeks ago was proof that Australia's policy of the last 16 years was wrong. Mr. Ramos Horta said it was naive or stubborn for Australia to talk of an act of reconciliation so East Timor will be happy as an Indonesian province.

[Horta] The matter cannot be discussed in the context of the Indonesian Republic. It has to be under UN auspices because the problem of East Timor is on the agenda of the UN. It will be [words indistinct] the people of East Timor who will take the intitiative in taking the issue out of the UN to make it into a bilateral Indonesia-East Timor problem.

[Dobell] Prime Minister Bob Hawke said that Australia could not be changing its policy because of an opinion (?held by) President Suharto. Is that correct?

[Horta] Largely that Prime Minister Evans [title as heard] explained also that in evaluating the form of relationship with Indonesia there are many factors in consideration in other areas where Australia and Indonesia have a constructive cooperation. So the whole relationship is (?upon) the East Timor.

[Hedden] Mr. Ramos Horta said the delegation asked Australia to stop training Indonesian military officers in Australia, to push for the creation of a permanent Australian diplomatic post in Dili, and to channel any Australian aid to East Timor through the Catholic Church, not the Indonesian Government. The Fretilin representative said Foreign Minister Evans explained Australia's approach in these terms:

[Horta] Well, Foreign Minister Evans went on into a long explanation about the whole relationship with Indonesia, about President Suharto's unwillingness to consider any other alternative. There is no way Indonesia would back off from the annexation because that in Indonesia's view, and probably shared by some people in Australia, is to accept it as a precedent for other parts of Indonesia. [end recording]

Hawke Says Jakarta Visit Depends on Dili Probe

BK0112063291 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Australia's prime minister, Bob Hawke, says going to Jakarta early next year could be difficult if the Indonesian inquiry into the Dili massacre is still under way. He says both governments could decide to call off the trip if the inquiry has not finished.

Mr. Hawke made the remarks in a wideranging interview on Australian commercial television.

The Australian Government estimates that about 75 people were killed on 12 November when Indonesian troops fired on a crowd of mourners in the East Timor capital. The official death toll is 19.

Australia's foreign minister, Gareth Evans, is going to Jakarta later this month for talks on the East Timor issue.

Fiji

Rabuka Steps Down in Bid for Prime Minister Post

BK0212093891 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] In Fiji, coup leader Sitiveni Rabuka has stepped down from his ministerial post in a bid to become the country's next prime minister. As president of the Fiji Political Party, the FPP, he says his most important task now is to win the elections next year.

Major General Rabuka says he is hopeful the FPP, the largest Fijian-based party, will win a majority in parliament. His resignation as co-deputy prime minister and home affairs minister followed a Cabinet ruling that office bearers of political parties cannot hold a Cabinet post.

The FPP is favored to win a majority of seats because indigenous Fijians are guaranteed 37 seats in a 70-seat parliament under the new racially-biased Constitution.

New Zealand

Australian Foreign Minister Visits, Holds Talks

Discusses Nuclear Ship Ban

BK2911115591 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 29 Nov 91

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] The visits by nuclear-powered ships are safe, Australia's Foreign Minister Gareth Evans told New Zealanders today. After meeting with his New Zealand counterpart Don McKinnon for talks in Wellington, Senator Evans told a press conference that he knew it would shock and dismay some colleagues, but his government's view is that propulsion brings only negligible risks.

His comments come as the New Zealand Government is attempting to set up a review of the country's ban on nuclear-powered or armed ships with the hope of allowing renewed access for nuclear-propelled vessels. Our New Zealand correspondent, Brendan Burns, reports:

[Begin recording] [Burns] The issue of nuclear ships is also contentious in New Zealand, but Senator Evans today seems happy to steer a course toward it. Since President Bush announced two months ago that the United States was taking nuclear weapons off certain ships, the National [Party] government in Wellington has been promoting a review of the anti-nuclear law it inherited on coming to office last year. No details of the review's membership or terms of inquiry have yet emerged, but the goverment clearly hopes to convince generally dubious New Zealanders that the nuclear-powered ships minus their weapons are safe.

After speaking to Don McKinnon today about the review of access for nuclear-powered vessels, Sen. Evans gave his views on the issue.

[Evans] We obviously have a very close analysis of the safety implications of letting in nuclear-powered vessels into particular ports with quite a comprehensive regime and rules that govern the access of such vessels. It is backed by quite a comprehensive research and analysis of the risks that are involved and we think in that sense they are negligible. It may have come as a great shock and cause for dismay for a significant segment of my colleagues in the political community and extrapolitical community of various parts of the world, but it happens to be our judgement, and more or less here by most other sensible people.

[Burns] Having inferred that New Zealand was not sensible to have banned nuclear-powered ships for the past six years, Sen. Evans moved to express his hope for the return of Australia's smaller neighbor to ANZUS [Australia-New Zealand-U.S. Defense Pact] defense relationship with the United States.

[Evans] Obviously the Bush announcement on nuclear weapons, in particular the removal of tactical nuclear weapons from surface ships, does change the environment. It does give us some grounds for confidence or hope that it may be possible for New Zealand to get its policy (?in a kind condition) that would make possible the recreation of the full three-legged alliance, but whether that is possible is a matter for New Zealand Government.

[Burns] Apart from seeing a need to allow the resumption of access to nuclear-powered ships, Sen. Evans also identified a number of other residual issues which remain through the plan by New Zealand to continue the ban on nuclear weapons.

[Evans] Conceivably some lingering difficulties on the weapons issue to the extent that the United States Government will take some time to remove the weapons from existing ships and to the extent that it is not excluding possibility of replacing them in future, and to the extent that it seems likely to be retaining some elements of this doctrine into the forseable future. All of those [word indistinct] will create complications in one way or the other, but nonetheless it is a very different kind of debate, I would have thought, in this country than the one that was occurring a year ago.

[Burns] Aside from nuclear ships, Sen. Evans and Mr. McKinnon discussed a host of regional and international issues with the Australian minister talking about his recent visit to the Soviet Union and the New Zealand minister reporting on three days he had last week in New Caledonia. Sen. Evans briefed Mr. McKinnon on his view that the forced evacuation of Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan from Phnom Penh would not abort the Cambodian peace process. The two men agreed Australia and New Zealand have broadly similar approaches to the massacre in East Timor—that of having expressed abhorance, but awaiting Indonesia's internal inquiry.

[Burns] Sen. Evans has now returned to Australia, with another of the regular bilateral meetings with the New Zealand counterpart scheduled for the middle of next year. [end recording]

Views East Timor Incident

BK2911093491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0901 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Wellington, Nov 29 (AFP)—No evidence suggests that the recent killings in East Timor, Indonesia, were ordered by the Jakarta Government, Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said here Friday.

Evans, here for talks with New Zealand Foreign Minister Don McKinnon, said the killings were apparently not "the result of a deliberate and calculated act of state."

"Of course it was an act perpetrated by a section of the military, but ... on available evidence, and more evidence may emerge to contradict this, but on available evidence it was aberrant behaviour by a locally-based section of the military," Evans told a press conference.

The Australian foreign minister said he did not think anything would be gained "at this stage" by Canberra and Wellington using "more active measures" to express abhorrence at the shootings.

Up to 115 people died November 12 when Indonesian soldiers opened fire on a crowd of 3,500 people attending a memorial service in the East Timor capital Dili, sources including witnesses have said. According to the official version of the incident, 19 people died and 91 were wounded.

Jakarta last week set up a National Investigative Commission to conduct a "thorough probe" of the Dili shooting, and a fact-finding mission arrived there Thursday.

"A major inquiry has been set in train which the president has required to be just, fair, thorough and free, and I don't think it's appropriate for us to make any assumption at all at this stage that the inquiry will not satisfy those criteria," Evans said.

UN Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar said in Paris on Thursday that the United Nations also would send a mission to East Timor to probe the shooting.

Vanuatu

Opposition Claims Victory in General Election

BK0312024691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0226 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Port Vila, Dec 3 (AFP)—The opposition Union of Moderate Parties (UMP) is considering a legal challenge to the National United Party [NUP] of former prime minister Walter Lini, UMP officials said as votes were counted Tuesday after Vanuatu's general election.

The UMP, which draws most of its support from the country's French-speaking community, claimed that it had already won 16 of the 46 seats in the single-chamber parliament in voting on Monday and was hoping for an outright majority.

"So far, we have reached a number of 16, and we hope to win another ten," UMP party coordinator Aime Malere told AFP.

UMP officials said they might launch a legal challenge to Lini's sister Hilda, who claimed to have won a seat for the NUP in the fiercely contested constituency of Port Vila.

The UMP alleged that the NUP had continued campaigning after the polls opened Monday, in violation of the electoral law.

NUP officials were not immediately available for comment.

The UMP claimed to have won two seats in Port Vila, with another two going to the Vanuaaku Pati [VP] , which Lini led for 11 years until he was ousted as prime minister in September.

The 46 seats in parliament are spread among 15 constituencies.

The VP, now led by outgoing prime minister Donald Kalpokas, had 40 seats in parliament before the assembly was dissolved in October.

It picked up almost half of these in by-elections which were boycotted by the UMP.